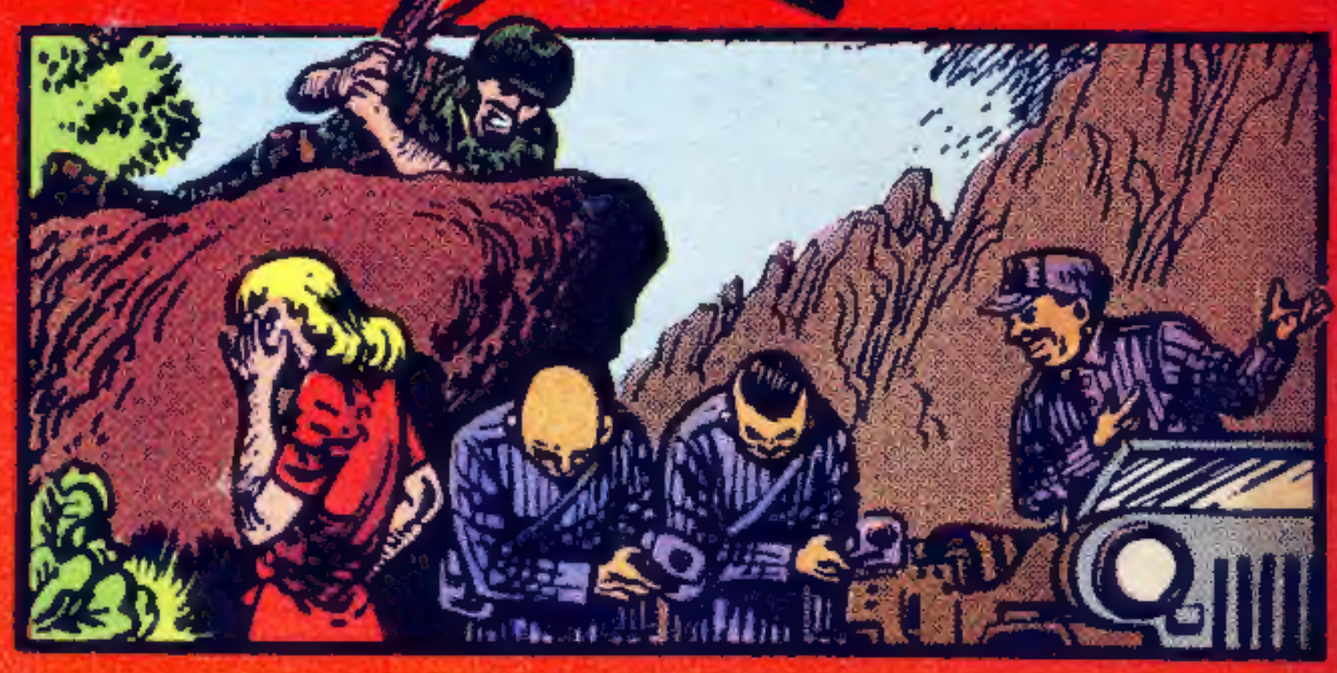
ATLAS

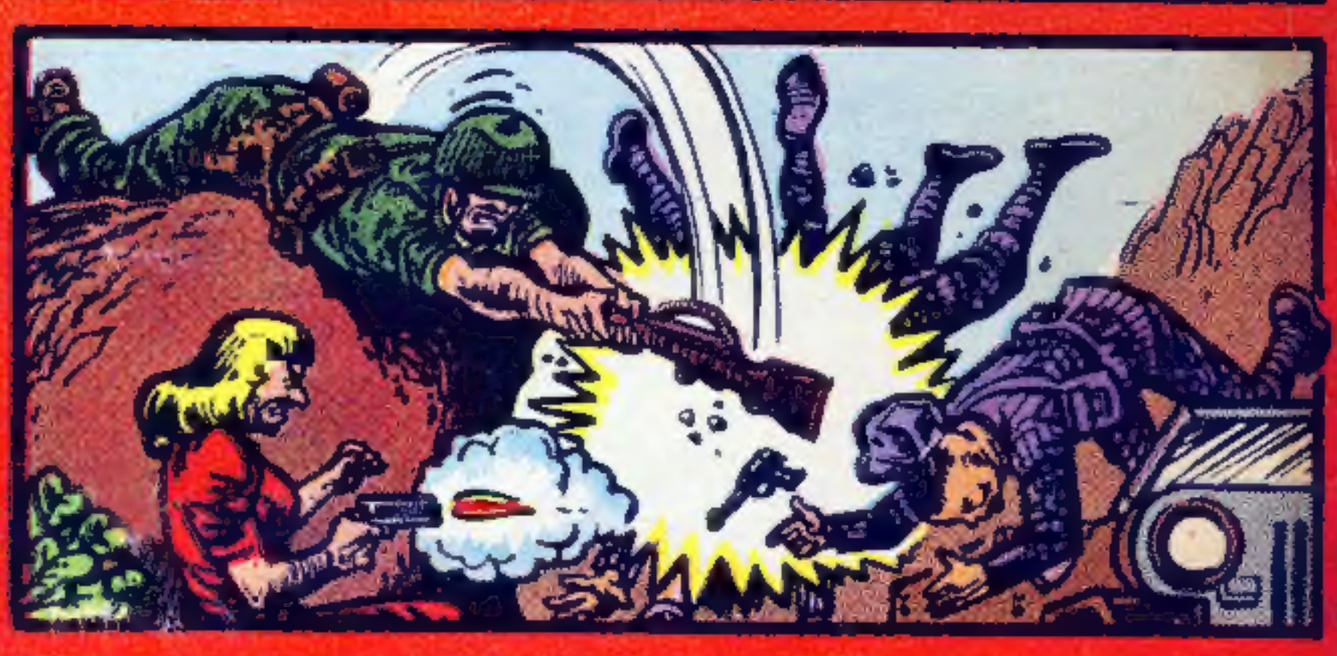
COMBAT KELLY

APR.
NO.
21

COMBAT KELLY

10¢





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AND HATRED IN HIS HEART
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COMBAT KELLY
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God took the Sunshine from the Skies
And made the Lovelight in your eyes;
He gave you breath
And with His love
made yours divine
But best of all
HE MADE YOU
MINE
CHILD'S PRAYER
Now I Lay me down To Sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep,
If I should Die before I Wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take
The Way Of The CROSS LEADS HOME

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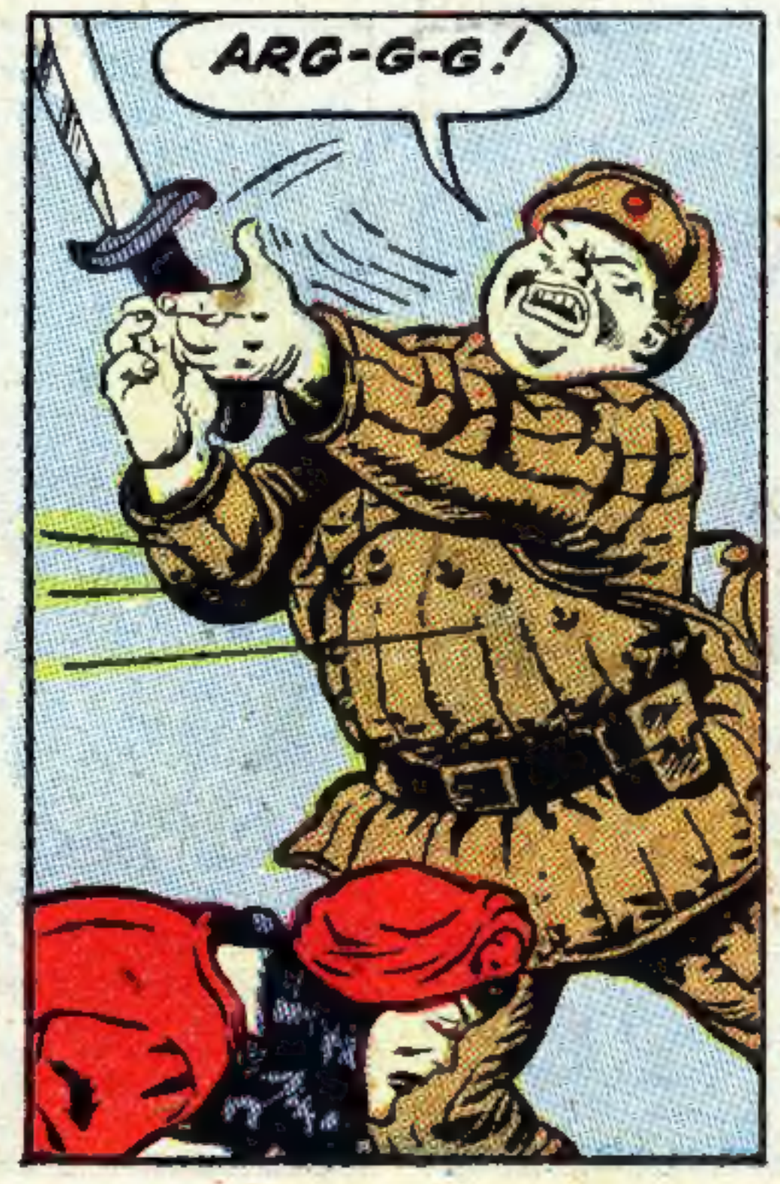
GET INTO THE THICK OF BATTLE WITH...

COMBAT KELLY



MY HANDS ARE TIED ... BUT I CAN STILL USE MY HEAD!

OW-W!

THE COMMIE ASSASSINS TASTED BOTH ENDS OF THE DOGGIES' GUNS! THE FRONT ENDS FILLED THE REDS' BELLIES WITH LEAD...

AND THE BUTT ENDS OF THE G.I.S' GUNS FILLED THE COMMIES MOUTHS WITH BROKEN TEETH!

AMERICAN ...BEWARE! TWO OF THEM ARE COMING AT YOU WITH BAYONETS!

COMBAT WAS CAUGHT IN BETWEEN TWO MURDER-MAD COMMIES GALLOPING AT HIM WITH BLOOD-THIRSTY STEEL...

AN' ME WITH AN EMPTY SHOOTER!

COMBAT WAITED UNTIL HE COULD SMELL THE GARLIC ON THE REDS' BREATHS... THEN HE TOOK A BELLY-FLOP ON THE GROUND... AND THE TWO REDS MET EACH OTHER WITH BAYONETS...

WOW! WHATTA LAST ACT THAT WAS, COMBAT!

NEVER MIND THE BOKAYS, COOKIE! LET'S GET THIS CHICK UNTIED AN' SCRAM!

DON'T GET NERVOUS IN THE SERVICE, COMBAT... THESE REDS ARE ALL OUTTA ORDER!

OKAY, HONEY... YOU'RE FREE!

THANKS, AMERICAN ... NOW LET ME BORROW THAT GUN!

HEY! WHAT THE...?

THE BULLETS RIPPED INTO THE QUILT-COVERED FLESH OF A RED HIGH UP ON THE CANYON WALL...

ARG-G-G!

CA-RIPES! HE WAS GONNA ROLL THAT PEBBLE DOWN ON US!

LOOK OUT! THEY'RE BOTH COMIN' DOWN!

THE TWO DOGGIES AND THE GAL MOVED FAST OUT OF THE PATH OF THE PLUNGING BODY AND THE BOULDER... AND AS THEY MOVED, THE WOUNDED RED ON THE GROUND FIRED...

HOLY SMOKES! ONE OF THEM RED CORPSES TOOK A SHOT AT US!

ARG-G-G!

HE WASN'T A CORPSE... BUT HE IS NOW!

LIKE YOU SAID, COMBAT, ...LET'S SCRAM!

AND AS THE TRIO SCRAMMED, THE GAL EXPLAINED WHY THE REDS WANTED HER IN TWO PIECES...

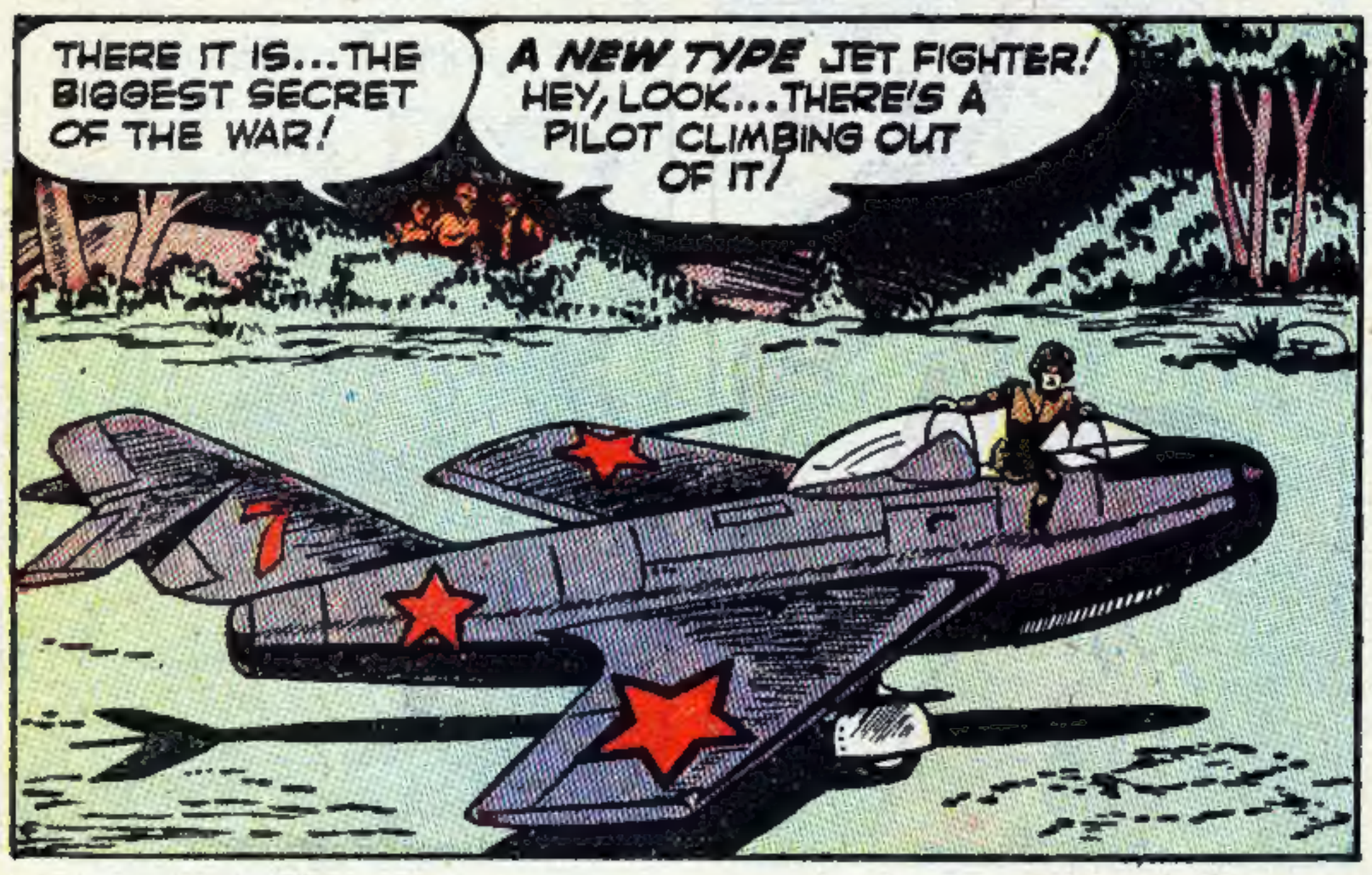
I'M A SOUTH KOREAN AND I FOUND OUT A GREAT SECRET... BUT AT THE SAME TIME, MAJOR CHUNG FOUND OUT THAT I WAS A SPY AND ORDERED ME BEHEADED TO KEEP MY TONGUE FROM WAGGING TO THE AMERICANS!

THAT MUST'VE BEEN SOME SECRET, BABY!

WHAT IS IT?

I WON'T TELL YOU, AMERICAN! BUT I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PLACE WHERE I WAS ARRESTED AND SHOW YOU!

AFTER A COUPLE OF HOURS OF WALKING, CLIMBING AND RUNNING, THE GAL MOTIONED THE TWO DOGGIES TO BE QUIET AS SHE PARTED THE FOLIAGE...



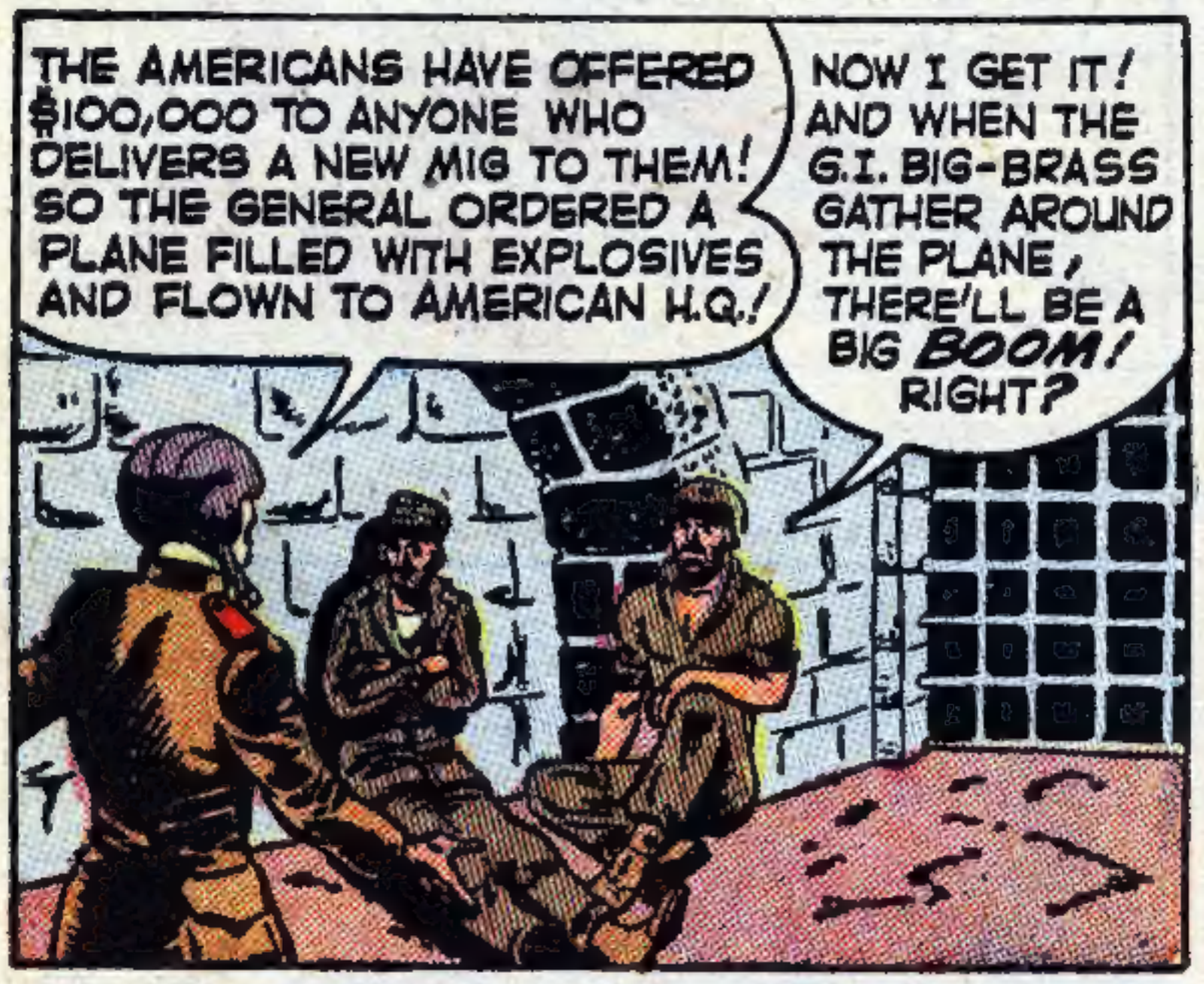
IN THE NAME OF BUDDHA! THAT IS MAJOR CHUNG...THE MAN WHO ORDERED MY EXECUTION!
HE'S CARRYING SOMETHING AN' COMIN' THIS WAY! WE BETTER TAKE COVER!

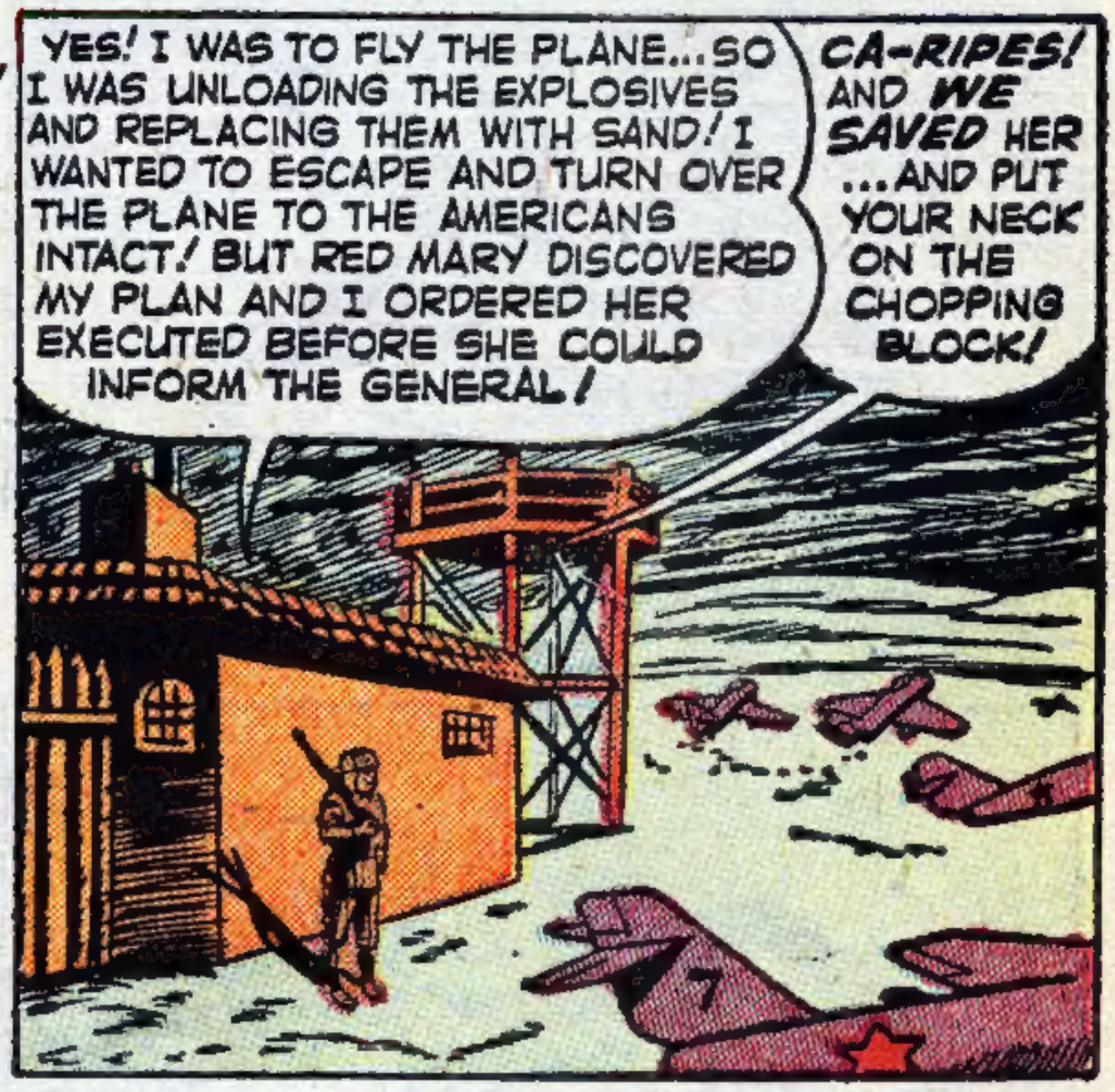
COOKIE AND THE GAL HID IN THE BUSHES, AND COMBAT CLIMBED A TREE! SIX EYES WATCHED AS THE MAJOR CAME INTO THE WOODS...

THE GAL ORDERED COMBAT TO PICK UP THE MAJOR HE HAD COOLED AND TO MARCH TOWARD THE COMMIE H.Q. ACROSS THE SECRET AIRFIELD...

RED MARY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU ARE A TRAITOR AND ORDERED TO DIE BY MAJOR CHUNG!
I BRING YOU THE REAL TRAITOR, GENERAL WU... AND TWO AMERICAN PRISONERS!
THE AIRCRAFT YOU ORDERED LOADED WITH EXPLOSIVES AND TO BE DELIVERED TO THE AMERICANS FOR THE 100,000 DOLLARS REWARD THEY'VE OFFERED, IS FILLED WITH SAND... AND THE DYNAMITE IS BURIED IN THE WOODS!
THAT IS WHAT I ACCUSED THE MAJOR OF DOING WHEN HE HAD ME ARRESTED! HE ORDERED MY HEAD REMOVED BECAUSE ONLY I KNEW OF HIS TREACHERY TO DELIVER THE SECRET PLANE TO THE AMERICANS IN ONE PIECE!
IF THIS IS TRUE, RED MARY... HE SHALL TAKE YOUR PLACE ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK!

WHILE THE GENERAL INVESTIGATED, THE MAJOR AND THE TWO DOGGIES WERE SHOVED INTO THE POKEY! WHEN THE MAJOR CAME TO, HE GAVE COMBAT AND COOKIE ALL THE ANSWERS...


THE AMERICANS HAVE OFFERED $100,000 TO ANYONE WHO DELIVERS A NEW MIG TO THEM! SO THE GENERAL ORDERED A PLANE FILLED WITH EXPLOSIVES AND FLOWN TO AMERICAN H.Q.!
NOW I GET IT! AND WHEN THE G.I. BIG-BRASS GATHER AROUND THE PLANE, THERE'LL BE A BIG BOOM! RIGHT?


YES! I WAS TO FLY THE PLANE... SO I WAS UNLOADING THE EXPLOSIVES AND REPLACING THEM WITH SAND! I WANTED TO ESCAPE AND TURN OVER THE PLANE TO THE AMERICANS INTACT! BUT RED MARY DISCOVERED MY PLAN AND I ORDERED HER EXECUTED BEFORE SHE COULD INFORM THE GENERAL!
CA-RIPES! AND WE SAVED HER ...AND PUT YOUR NECK ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK!

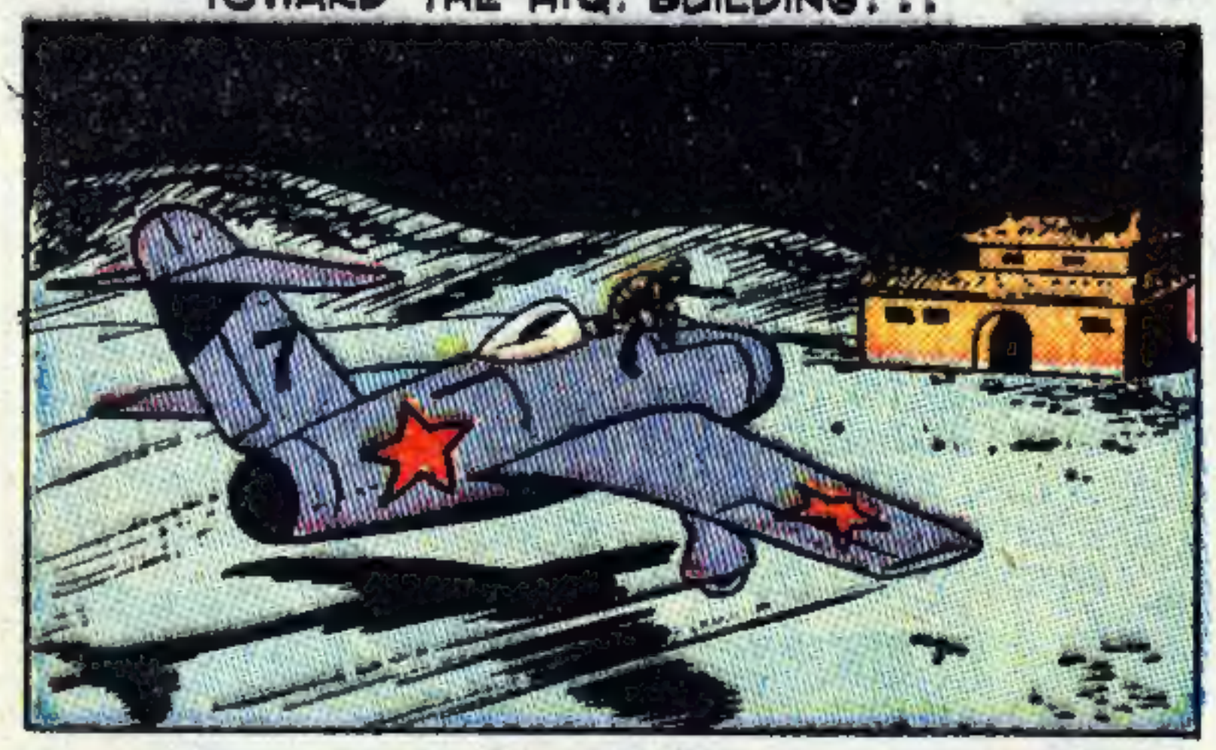
GEE, COMBAT! THAT'S THE HUNK YOU WERE EXAMININ' WHEN MARY PULLED THE ROD ON US!
YEP! I FIGURED IT'D COME IN HANDY SOME DAY... AN' THIS IS THE DAY!

A FEW SECONDS AFTER THE DYNAMITE BLEW A NEW EXIT OUT OF THE PRISON, THE TWO DOGGIES AND THE MAJOR USED IT...

YOU'RE THE JET JOCKEY, MAJOR! WHICH CLOUD-HOPPIN' NAG WE RIDIN' IN THIS GETAWAY RACE?
THAT ONE! YOU TWO GET IN AND WAIT! I HAVE A BIT OF BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO FIRST!

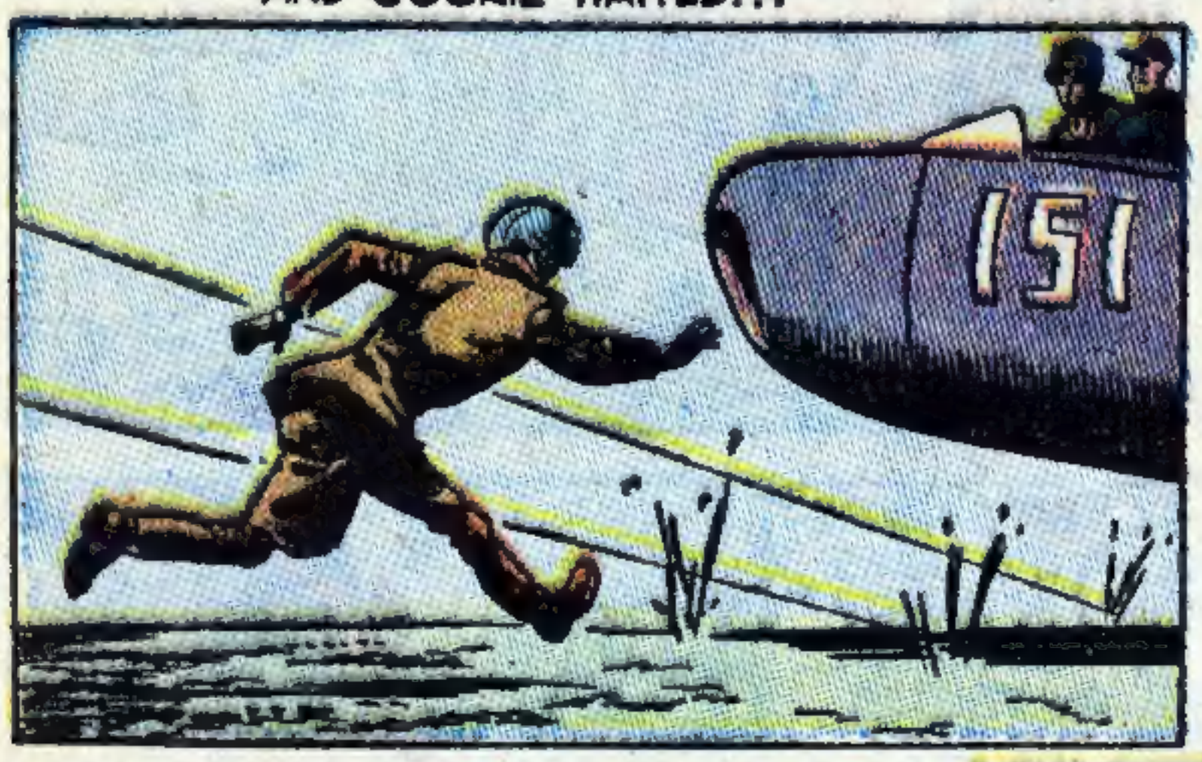
LEAD ~~SEES~~ BUZZED OVER THE G.I.S' HEADS AS THEY DOUBLE-TIMED TOWARD THE PARKED JET...

THE MAJOR FROZE THE CONTROLS OF THE MIG AND SENT IT BARRELING ACROSS THE FIELD TOWARD THE H.Q. BUILDING...

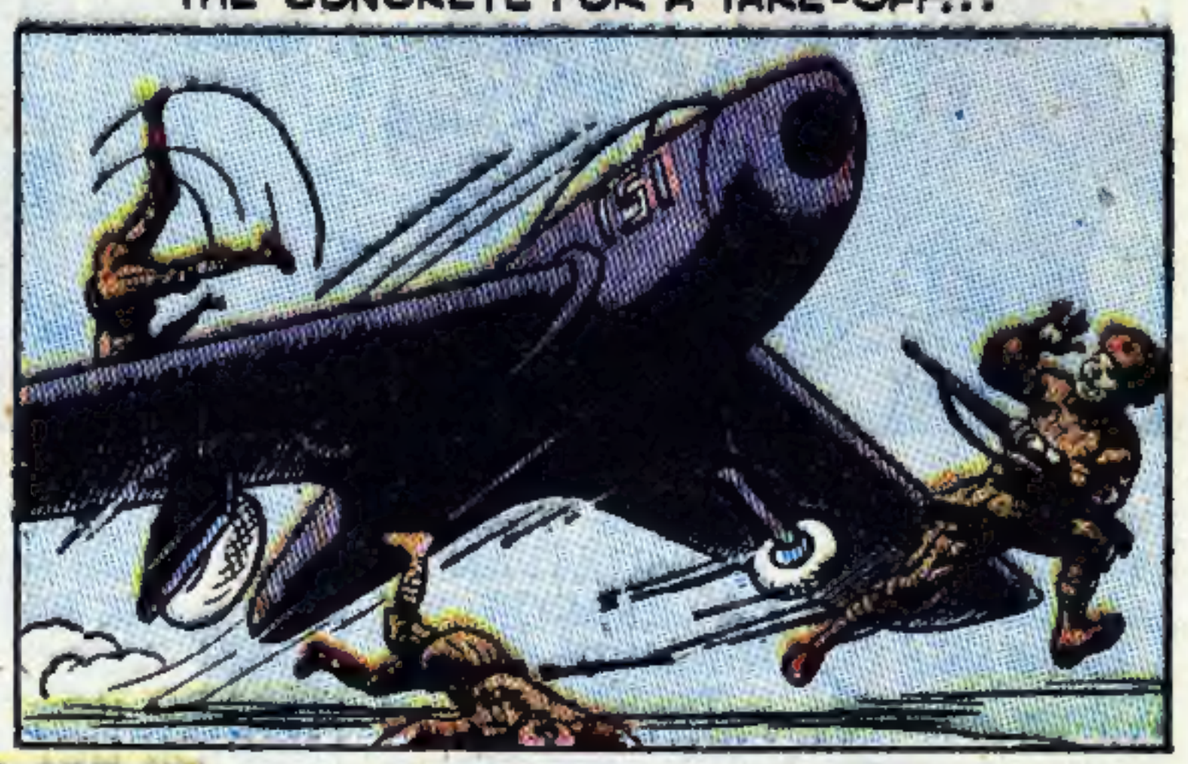


AND WHEN THE EXPLOSIVE-LOADED JET SMACKED THE COMMIE SHACK...

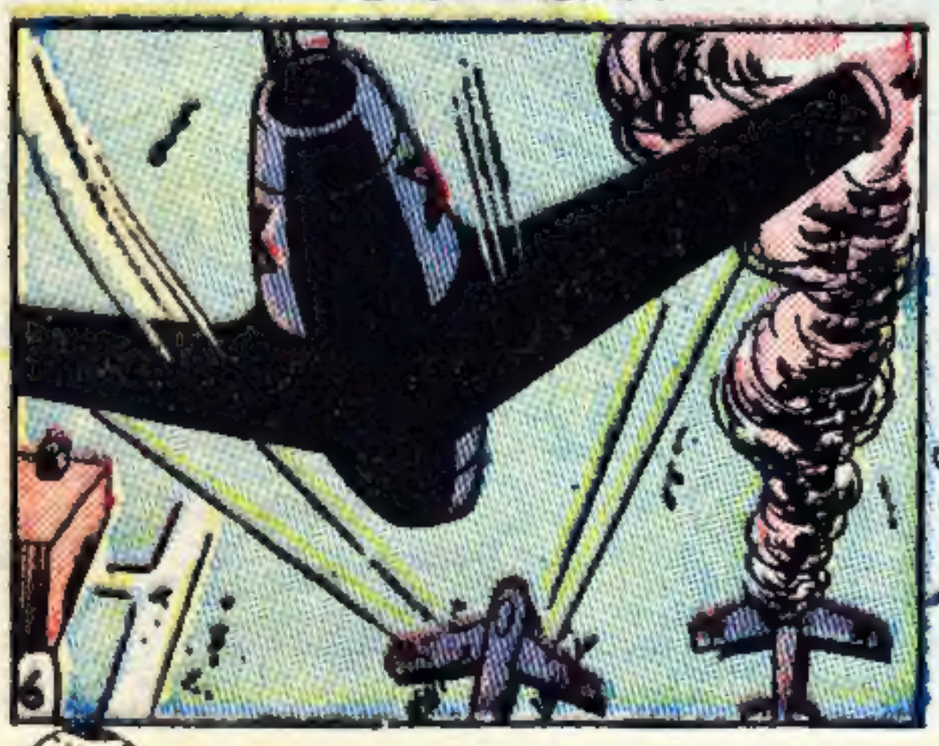
THEN THE MAJOR DODGED BULLETS AND ZIG-ZAGGED TOWARD THE PLANE IN WHICH COMBAT AND COOKIE WAITED...



A FEW SECONDS LATER, THE PLANE WAS BOWLING REDS OFF THE RUNWAY AS IT SPRINTED DOWN THE CONCRETE FOR A TAKE-OFF...

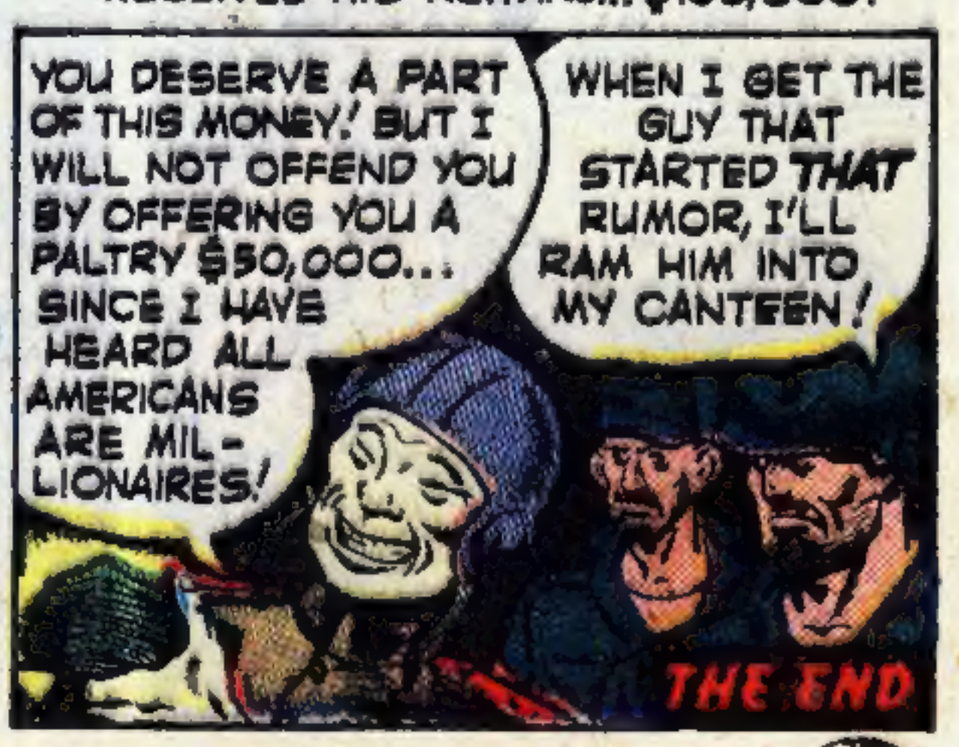


AND FROM THE AIR, MAJOR CHUNG GAVE THE COMMIES A PARTING GIFT FROM HIS CANNONS!



THEN THE MIG HEADED FOR U.N. TERRITORY...

AND AFTER THE MAJOR DELIVERED THE NEW MIG TO THE AMERICANS, HE RECEIVED HIS REWARD.. $100,000!


YOU DESERVE A PART OF THIS MONEY! BUT I WILL NOT OFFEND YOU BY OFFERING YOU A PALTRY $50,000... SINCE I HAVE HEARD ALL AMERICANS ARE MIL-LIONAIRES!
WHEN I GET THE GUY THAT STARTED THAT RUMOR, I'LL RAM HIM INTO MY CANTEEN!
THE END

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN WAR TALES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

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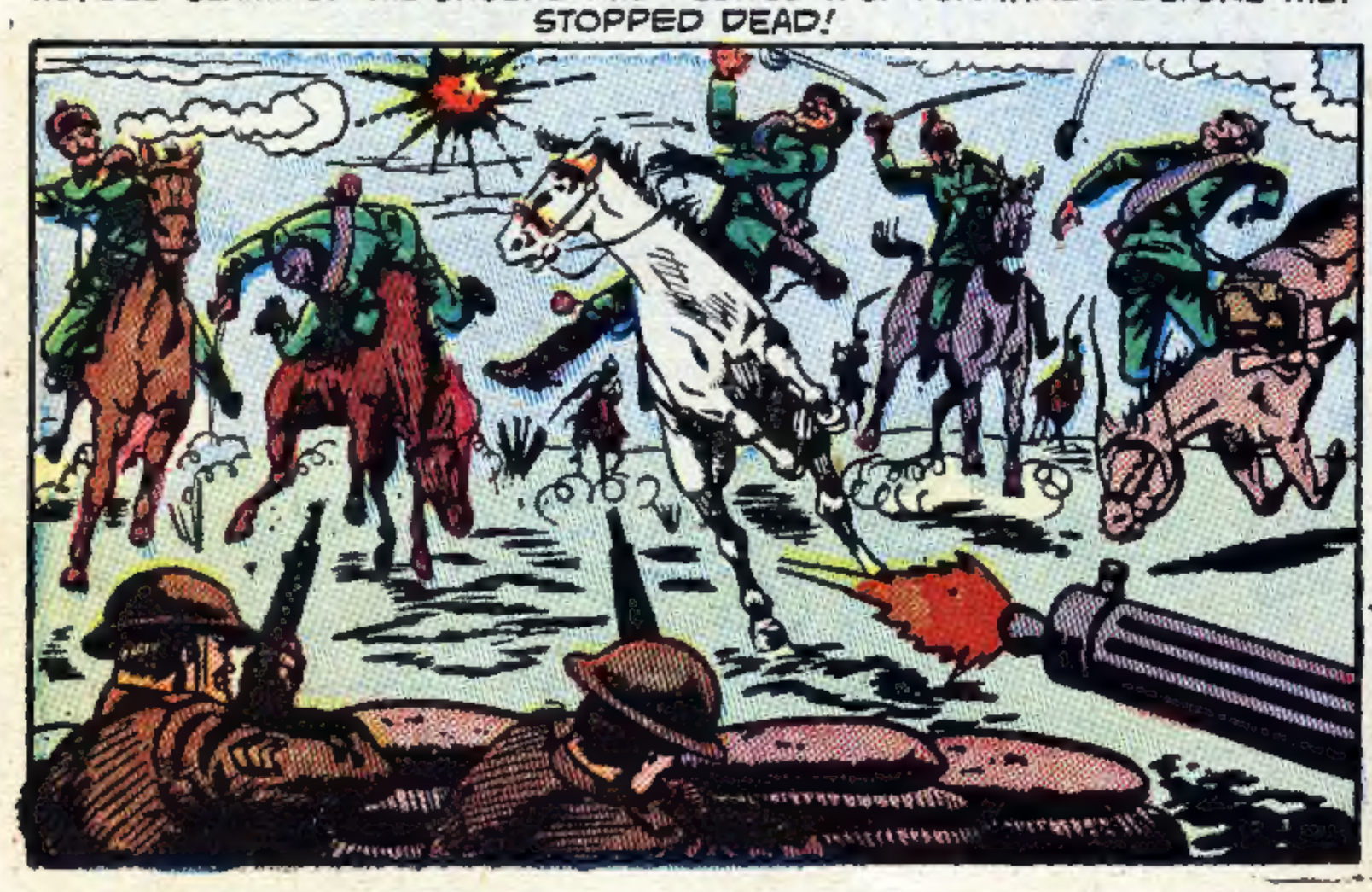
TRUE WAR STORIES THAT MADE HISTORY...TOLD BY

COMBAT KELLY

BOIS DE BELLEAU IS FRENCH FOR **BELLEAU WOOD**...BUT NO MATTER HOW YOU SAY IT, IT'S STILL ONE OF THE BLOODIEST BATTLEGROUNDS OF WORLD WAR I! THE STORY OF THE BATTLES OF BELLEAU WOOD IS IN ALL THE HISTORY BOOKS... BUT IT'D BE A DIFFERENT STORY IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR A COUPLE OF MARINES WHO LOVED HORSES...AND HATED HEINIES!

ON JUNE 11,1918, AFTER A RUGGED BATTLE, THE AMERICAN 2ND DIVISION AND TWO REGIMENTS OF MARINES, OCCUPIED BELLEAU WOOD! BUT TWO DAYS LATER, THE GERMANS COUNTER-ATTACKED... ***WITH A SPEARHEAD OF SWORD-SLASHING CAVALRY TROOPS!***

RIFLES AND MACHINE GUNS EXPLODED FROM THE DOUGHBOYS' TRENCHES AND RIPPED INTO THE WALL OF HUMAN AND HORSEFLESH! THAT FIRST VOLLEY OF .30 CALIBERS KNOCKED THE POINT OFF THE WILD CHARGE...AND HEINIES AND HORSES SLAMMED THE GROUND AND PLOWED IT UP FOR YARDS BEFORE THEY STOPPED DEAD!



THAT'S WHEN MARINE SGT. BUCK BENSON A COWBOY FROM TEXAS, ALMOST BUSTED A GUT YELLIN' AT THE TIN HATS IN THE TRENCHES...

ONE HOSS IS WORTH A WHOLE HERD OF THEM CRUMMY KRAUTS! DUST THE VARMINT OFF THEIR LEATHER CLEAN... LIKE THIS!

THE SARGE WAS SO BUSY EMPTYIN' SADDLES WE DIDN'T SEE THE KAISER'S BUTCHER GALLOPIN' IN BEHIND HIM WITH HIS PRUSSIAN CLEAVER READY FOR SLICIN'...

HIC

BUT BEFORE THE BOCHE GOT TO MARKET, A SLUG FROM MARINE CAPTAIN WARREN FLINT'S .45 NAILED THE HORSEMAN...

THANKS, CAP'N FLINT... SIR!

DON'T THANK ME, SERGEANT BENSON! I'M AN EX-CAVALRY MAN... I DID IT FOR THE HORSE!

THE SARGE AND THE CAPTAIN HATED EACH OTHER'S GUTS... EVER SINCE A BEAUTIFUL FRENCH MADEMOISELLE IN PARIS FELL IN LOVE WITH BOTH OF THEM...

EAT DIRT, CAP'N... SIR!

HEY... WHAT THE...

THANKS SARGE!

DON'T THANK ME, CAP'N FLINT... SIR! I DID IT FOR NOTHIN'!

THE FIRST ASSAULT OF THE KAISER'S CAVALRY WAS STOPPED... THEN CAME ACT TWO! ANOTHER WAVE HURDLED OVER THE BARBED-WIRE FENCES...

ONE OF THE HORSES BALKED AT THE BARRICADE, SO THE HEINIE RIDER WHIPPED THE ANIMAL'S HAUNCHES WITH HIS SWORD UNTIL THE HIDE WAS RAW...

THAT BLASTED BUTCHER'LL KILL THE HOSS...UNLESS I STOP HIM!

GET OFF THAT HOSS, HEINIE!

AN' NOW *YOU* JUMP THAT BARBED-WIRE FENCE JUST THE WAY YUH WANTED THAT HOSS TO DO!

THE GERMAN JUMPED..AND THE HORSE GAVE A LONG, LOUD NEIGH!

YORE WELCOME, HOSS

HEY, SARGE! CLIMB ON THAT HORSE AND LET'S RIDE! HERE COMES ANOTHER WAVE OF THE KAISER'S KILLERS!

IT'LL ONLY BE A RIPPLE WHEN WE SLAM INTO 'EM!

MOUNTED ON TWO OF THE GERMANS' HORSES, THE CAPTAIN AND THE SERGEANT GALLOPED TOWARD THE CHARGING GERMAN CAVALRY WITH THEIR GUNS BLAZING...

YA-HOO!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

LOOK AT
SKINNY!
I wouldn't be seen with him!
LATER
AND HE USED TO BE SO SKINNY!
AM I PROUD OF THE WAY THE GIRLS LOOK AT YOU!
WHAT A MAN!

SKINNY

MEN ARE OFTEN ASHAMED TO STRIP FOR SPORTS OR FOR A SWIM!

GIRLS ARE NOT ALLURING AND DON'T HAVE EYE-CATCHING CURVES!

CHILDREN WHO WON'T EAT AND ARE UNDER-WEIGHT, OFTEN CALLED SKINNY!

Now at last More-Wate plan that puts firm, attractive pounds and inches on your body, chest, arms and legs.

GAIN MORE WEIGHT
IN 10 DAYS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

Amazing New Way developed by modern medical science to put on weight on lean bodies. **Guaranteed** to give you up to an **extra pound a day!** Or **your money back!** Why should you dread going to parties and socials, simply because you look scrawny and spindly? Why ever feel self-conscious about your body again? If you're **underweight*** . . . or just a little on the thin side, due to faulty appetite, or bad dietary habits, you can **put on up to a pound a day** of **attractive weight** without exercise . . . dangerous drugs . . . or special diet . . . and more quickly, more easily than you ever dreamed possible . . . with MORE-WATE. MORE-WATE contains no dangerous drugs . . . you **eat it like candy!** Yet . . . if you were to have this same prescription compounded to your order, it would cost you many times more. However, through this introductory offer, you can obtain **4-way** MORE-WATE tablets . . . a full 10 days' supply . . . for just $1.00 or a 30 day supply for only $2.98, plus a 10 day supply free, with an absolute money-back guarantee! Yes, try MORE-WATE for TEN DAYS . . . and if not entirely delighted with weight gained, return the unused supply for full refund! You've nothing to lose . . . and **weight to gain!** Act now! Stop being the guy or the gal that everyone calls "skinny." Stop being the guy or the gal who dreads summer and going to parties and socials because it means everyone will enjoy themselves and you won't. Don't be a wallflower, because you have a figure like a broomstick! **Gain more weight!**

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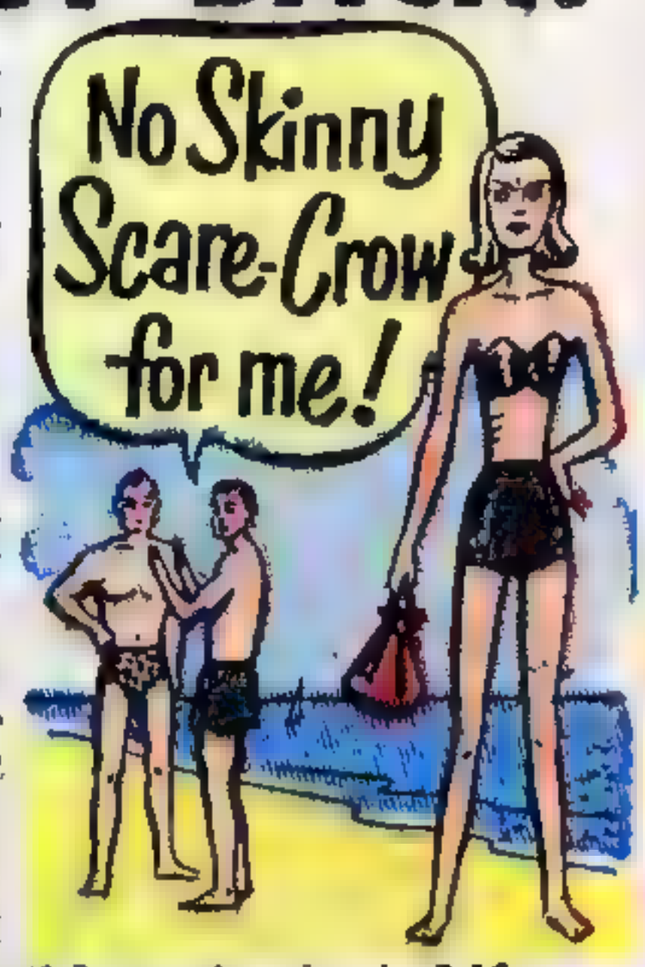

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Just mail us your name and address, and $1.00 cash, check or money order. You will receive a 10 day supply of MORE-WATE tablets and plan, postage prepaid.

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THEIR GUNS BURNED A HOLE IN THE FIRST COLUMN THEY HIT...

THE SWORDS THEY WON CARVED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE SECOND FLANK...

THEN THEY RAMMED AND SLAMMED THEIR SNORTING MOUNTS THROUGH THE OTHER CHARGES...

AND WHEN NIGHT CAME, THEY WERE DEEP IN KAISER TERRITORY...

WE STOPPED A LOT OF THEM...BUT NOT ENOUGH! THE MAIN BODY OF THEM HAS REACHED BELLEAU WOOD!

SO LET'S GO BACK AN' HELP OUR GUYS HOLD IT!

WE'RE NOT GOING BACK, SARGE!

HUH?

UNLESS YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO STAY BEHIND THE KRAUTS' LINES AND HELP ME RAID THEIR BIVOUACS, THEIR COMMUNICATIONS AND THEIR SUPPLIES!

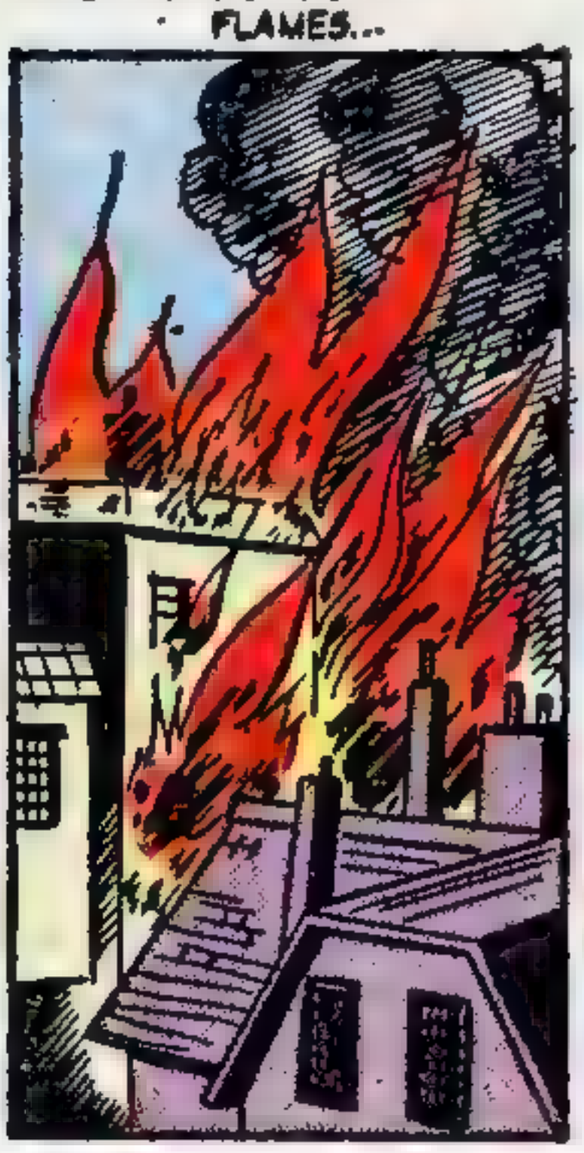
THEY STAYED..AND ON THAT FIRST NIGHT THEY GALLOPED INTO A GERMAN AMMO DUMP FAR BACK OF THE FRONT LINE, AND SENT THE PILE FLAMING INTO THE SKY...

BUT IF IT WASN'T DONE BY AMERIKANISCHE SOLDATEN...THEN WHO DID IT?

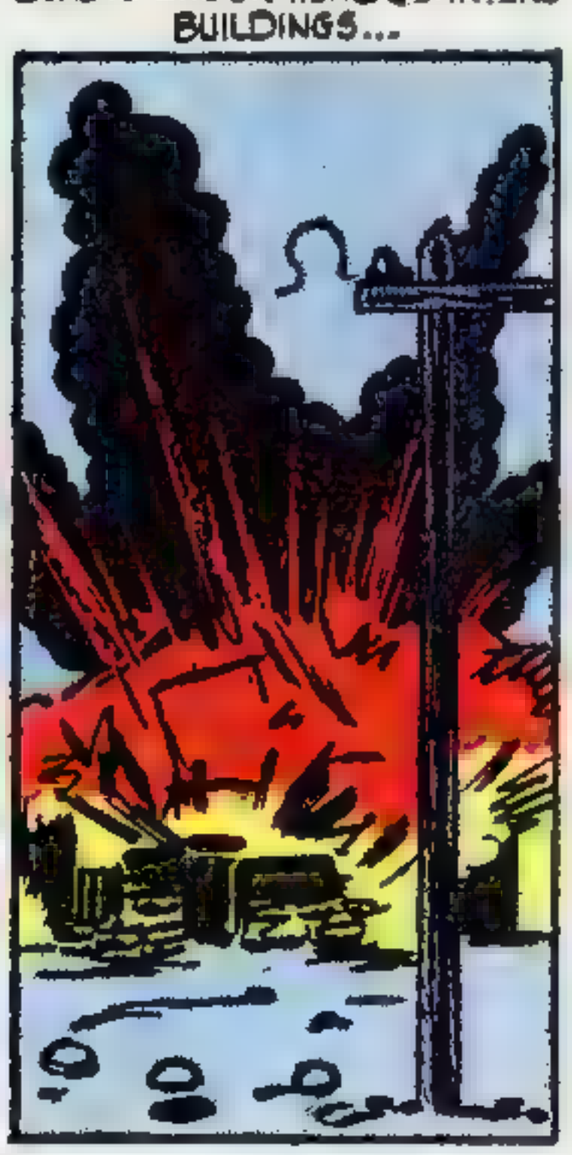
GHOSTS, MEIN CORPORAL... JA, GHOST RIDERS!

FOR 13 DAYS AND NIGHTS THE TWO MARINES STRUCK AT THE GERMANS! GUARDS DIED ON THEIR POSTS...

FOOD SUPPLIES WENT UP IN FLAMES...



BLASTS SHOOK HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS...



AIRPLANES WERE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND!

AND THEN ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 26TH, 1918, WHEN THE SARGE AND THE CAPTAIN WERE GALLOPING AWAY FROM A RAID...

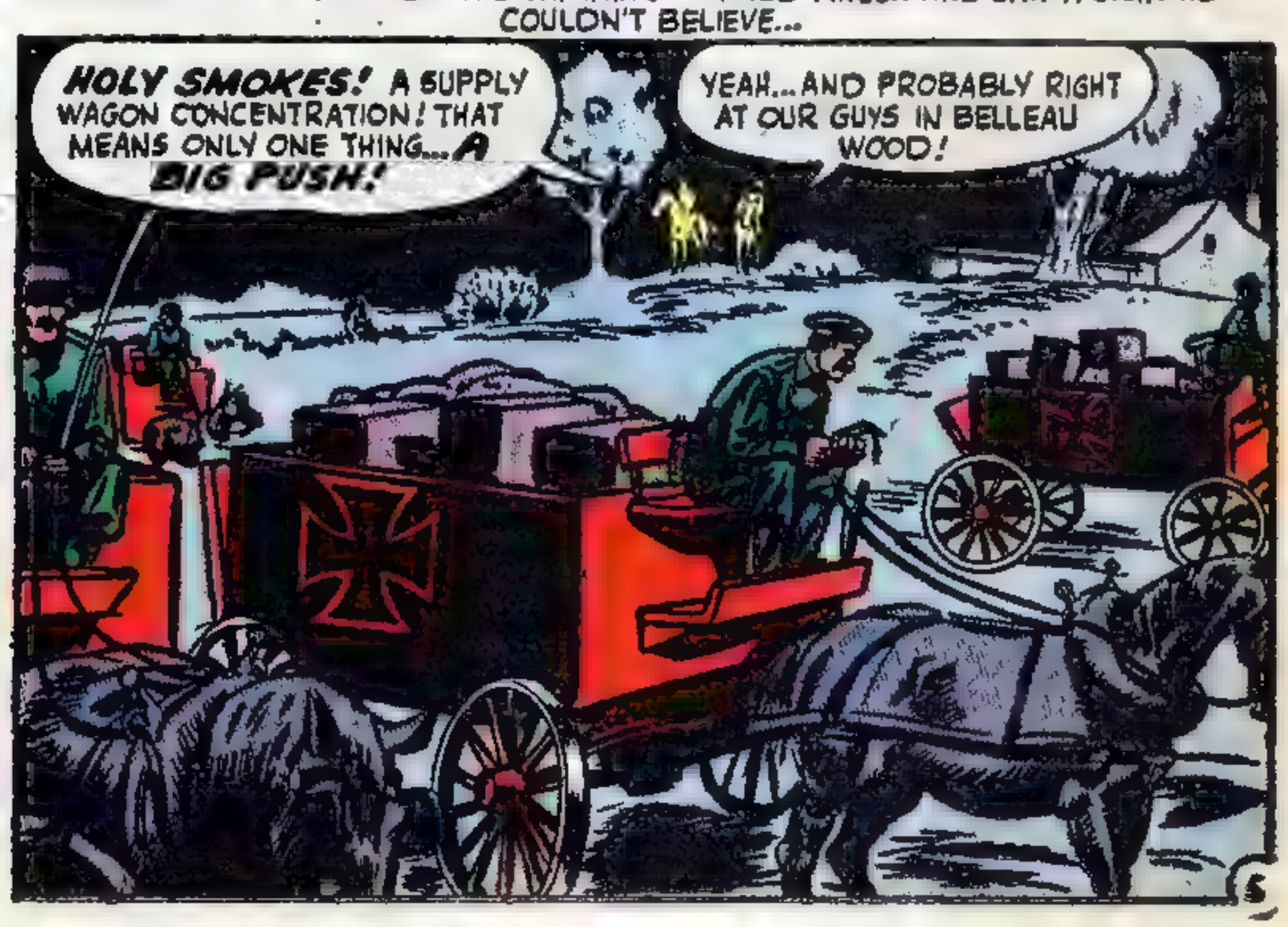
THAT'S ENOUGH WORK FOR TODAY, CAP'N...SIR! LET'S GO TO OUR HAYSTACK AN' HIT THE HAY!
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I HAD THE DISPLEASURE OF MEETING YOU... I AGREE WITH YOU!

BUT WHEN THEY GOT TO THE HAYFIELD WHERE THEY MADE THEIR HIDEOUT...

THEY'RE GONE! ALL THE HAYSTACKS ARE GONE!
YEAH...AND THERE THEY GO! LOADED ON GERMAN ARMY WAGONS! LET'S FOLLOW 'EM AND GIVE 'EM A HOTFOOT!

THE PAIR OF LEATHERNECKS FOLLOWED THE WAGONS, WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME TO SET THEM ON FIRE...

THE SARGE'S EYES FOLLOWED THE CAPTAIN'S POINTED FINGER AND SAW A SIGHT HE COULDN'T BELIEVE...


HOLY SMOKES! A SUPPLY WAGON CONCENTRATION! THAT MEANS ONLY ONE THING... A BIG PUSH!
YEAH...AND PROBABLY RIGHT AT OUR GUYS IN BELLEAU WOOD!

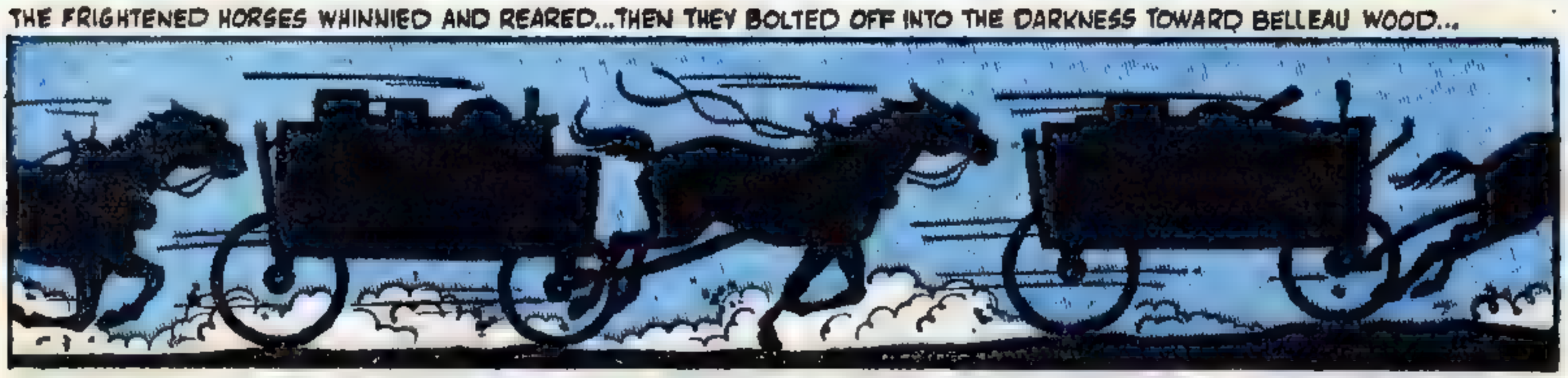
GOT ANY SUGGESTIONS, SARGE?

YEAH! LET'S SPOOK THEM HOSSES WHILE THEM DRIVERS SNOOZE!

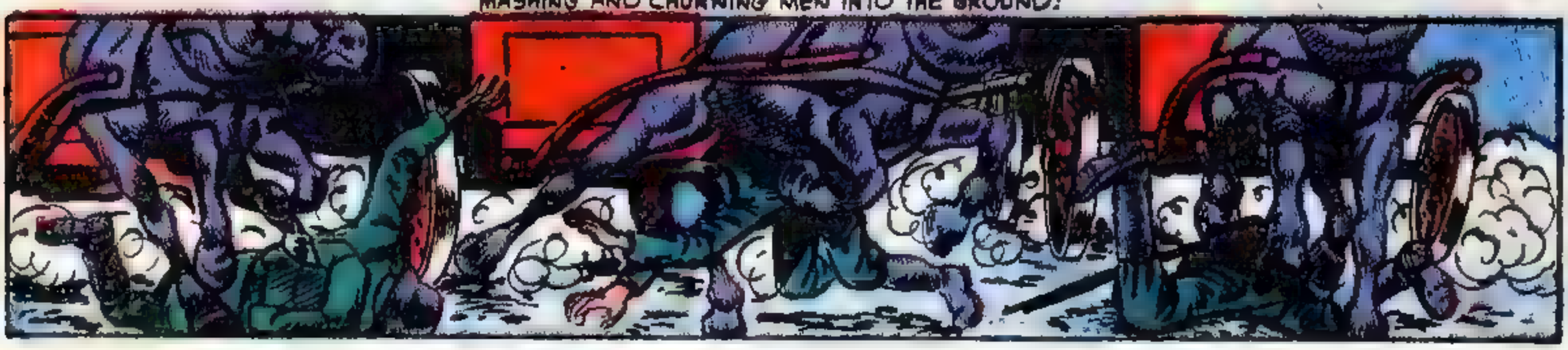
THE NIGHT MADE THEM INVISIBLE AND THE GRASS MUFFLED THEIR HORSES HOOFS AS THEY GALLOPED DOWN THE HILL LIKE A PAIR OF GHOST RIDERS...

AND WHEN THEY REACHED THE LINES OF WAGONS AND HORSES, THEIR GUNS BELCHED AND THEIR VOICES SCREECHED LIKE TEXAS COWBOYS GONE LOCO...

THE FRIGHTENED HORSES WHINNIED AND REARED...THEN THEY BOLTED OFF INTO THE DARKNESS TOWARD BELLEAU WOOD...



WHEN THE AVALANCHE OF WILD HORSES AND WAGONS REACHED BELLEAU WOOD, IT SLAMMED INTO THE GERMAN LINE GRINDING, MASHING AND CHURNING MEN INTO THE GROUND!



THE GERMAN TRENCHES BECAME CEMETERIES AS HORSES AND WAGONS STUMBLED INTO THEM AND CRUSHED THE TROOPS...

THE AMERICANS RECAPTURED BELLEAU WOOD AND IT WAS RENAMED BY SPECIAL ORDER OF GENERAL DEGOUTTE, TO... BOIS DE LA BRIGADE DE MARINE...

BUT THE TWO MARINES WHO HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE, WERE STILL BATTLING...

AND WHEN WE GET BACK TO PARIS, STAY AWAY FROM MY GAL! SHE GAVE ME THIS GARTER... THAT PROVES SHE'S MINE!
IT PROVES NOTHIN', CAP'N... SIR! BECAUSE SHE GAVE ME THE OTHER ONE!
THE END

ATLAS - FOR THE BEST IN WAR TALES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

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TWO BRAVE GUYS

BEFORE they were shipped to Korea, Corporals Waite and Foster were about as close friends as men could be. They went out on pass together, they liked the same things and they hated the same man—a certain Lieutenant Billingsley who commanded their platoon.

It's hard to say why they hated him. Possibly because they were Regular Army and he wasn't. Possibly because he'd been a shade too disciplinary when he'd taken over command of the platoon. Possibly because—

But they disliked him, whatever the reason. And when two highly experienced non-coms such as Waite and Foster don't like an officer, he's not going to get very much out of his men. Lieutenant Billingsley didn't, no matter how hard he tried.

However they felt toward their superior, Corporal Waite liked his buddy, Corporal Foster, very much — and vice versa. Whenever possible, they worked as a unit both on and off duty. This great friendship ended very suddenly on the eve of their outfit's departure for Korea.

And, naturally, the cause of it all was—well, yes, a woman!

Her name was Essie and she worked in the PX on the post which was serving as West Coast Port of Embarkation.

Corporal Foster met her first.

He came into barracks that night raving about the "Cutest little blonde chick you ever put your weary eyes on, soldier."

Dick Waite was interested in his buddy's welfare. He wanted to make certain that this Essie whatever-her-name-is was the right girl for his friend. He asked to be introduced to her.

Ten minutes after he met her, Corporal Waite was in love with Essie as deeply as his friend. And, for that matter, Harold Foster was no longer his friend. He was a competitor, an enemy, trying to take from him the very, very sweetest girl in the whole wide world.

Needless to say, Corporal Foster felt exactly the same way.

Dick Waite cut in fast enough to get her to agree to come to a USO dance being thrown that night. He did this while Corporal Foster's back was turned, so to speak, while the latter noncom was in the process of picking up some cigarettes at the tobacco counter in the rear.

When Harold Foster came back and found out what had happened, he let out a bull-like roar and set off for the barracks in pursuit of his erstwhile comrade who had scurried back for a shower and a shave.

"Too bad, fella," Corporal Waite told him unfeelingly as he slipped into a newly pressed pair of pants. "With women as beautiful as Essie, the race is to the swift. And you're just naturally too slow!"

Harold Foster shook a murderous fist at Waite's departing back. Then, pausing just long enough to order his entire squad to spend the evening making and unmaking their beds just for the practice, he slipped into a fresh uniform and took off in pursuit.

Essie and Dick Waite were having a fine time at the dance when he arrived. Without waiting to find out what the ground rules were, he promptly cut in.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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COOKIE AN' THE COMMIES!

SHADOWY FIGURES DETACHED THEMSELVES FROM THE KOREAN NIGHT AND MELTED INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE G.I. AMMO DUMP...

A MATCH FLICKERED AND THE FLAME REVEALED A PRETTY FEMININE FACE... BUT A FACE HARDENED BY GRIEF AND CRUELTY...

COOKIE NOVAK, ONE OF THE DOGGIES ON GUARD DUTY, SPOTTED THE FLAME AND BROUGHT DOWN HIS RIFLE READY FOR ACTION AS HE YELLED A CHALLENGE...

WHO GOES THERE?

HOLY CA-RIPES! IT'S BLOODY MARY AND HER GUERRILLA GOONIES!

ROBERT Q SALE

DATE

THE WALL OF FLAMES SILHOUETTED THE GUERRILLAS, AND THE G.I.'S PUMPED THEIR GARANDS INTO ACTION!

HOLY SMOKES! LOOK! THEY'RE SENDIN' A FLAMIN' JEEP TOWARD THAT OTHER STACK OF AMMO!

THAT JEEP'S GOTTA TAKE A DETOUR ...AN' IT'S UP TO THIS GRENADE TO SHOW IT HOW!

CA-RIPES! THERE GOES ONE OF THEM SNEAKY SKUNKS CRAWLIN' TOWARD THE GASOLINE DUMP WITH A LIGHTED TORCH!

IF I SHOOT, I MIGHT SET OFF THE GAS WITH MY BULLETS... SO I'LL GET THE SNAKE WITH A HOP, SKIP, AND JUMP!

GOTCHA!

HOLY CA-RIPES! IT'S ONLY A KID... A SCARED KOREAN KID!

AFTER ALL THE RAIDERS WERE DRIVEN AWAY, COOKIE TOOK THE KOREAN CHILD TO MAJOR THORN...

IT WAS BLOODY MARY, MAJOR! WE GOT FOUR OF HER MEN... ALL DEAD... AND THIS!

A KOREAN KID! THAT'S JUST LIKE THAT WITCH, BLOODY MARY... FORCING AN INNOCENT CHILD TO DO HER DIRTY WORK!

CAN WE KEEP THE KID, MAJOR, AS A MASCOT?

THIS IS AN INFANTRY OUTFIT, COOKIE... NOT A NURSERY! WE'LL SEND HER TO ONE OF THE ORPHAN HOMES IN SEOUL AS SOON AS ONE OF THE AMBULANCES ARRIVES! UNTIL THEN, **IT'S YOUR DETAIL TO KEEP THE KID SAFE... AND QUIET!**

COOKIE AND THE KOREAN KID GOT ALONG RIGHT OFF THE BAT! HE WAS LIKE A FATHER TO HER...

AND A MOTHER...

COOKIE CARVED TOYS FOR HER...

AND HE TOOK CARE OF HER AS IF SHE WERE HIS OWN KID...

SAY SAME AS I SAY... NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP...

NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP...

THE WHOLE OUTFIT FELL IN LOVE WITH THE KID... EVEN TOUGH OLD MAJOR THORN...

WHO-O-O-PSIE DAISY!

CAN I HOLD HER NOW, MAJOR? SHE REMINDS ME OF MY LITTLE GIRL BACK IN THE STATES!

THE KID WAS A GREAT MORALE BOOSTER... AND EVERY DAY THE MAJOR FOUND SOME EXCUSE FOR NOT SENDING HER TO THE G. I. ORPHANAGE! BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT CHANGED HIS MIND...

IT'S BLOODY MARY'S RAIDERS AGAIN! GET THAT KID UNDER COVER ...**SHE GOES TOMORROW!**

THE DOGGIES GRABBED GARANDS AND FANNED OUT AFTER THE RAIDERS...

DARKNESS AND THE KOREAN WOODS SWALLOWED UP BLOODY MARY AND HER GUERRILLAS! COOKIE AND THE OTHER G.I.'S CHASED SOUNDS AND MUFFLED FOOTSTEPS DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE FOREST...

I CAN'T ***SEE*** ANYTHING...BUT I CAN ***HEAR*** THE SNEAKIN' SKUNKS, AND THEY AIN'T GONNA LOSE ME!

SUDDENLY, THE LEAVES ON THE BRANCHES ABOVE COOKIE'S HEAD RUSTLED WITH A VIOLENCE NO WIND COULD HAVE CAUSED...

#¢!!

ROTTEN REDS! DROPPIN' OUT OF THE TREES!

THE MOON FLASHED A WARNING AS IT REFLECTED ITS YELLOW FACE ON ONE OF THE GUERRILLA'S UPRAISED KNIFE BLADE!

COOKIE'S FIST LASHED OUT LIKE A SERPENT, FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF SPLITTING FLESH AND BONE...

THEN, BLUE WINKS OF FIRE FLASHED FROM COOKIE'S GARAND AS HE SPRAYED .30 CALIBER DEATH INTO THE NIGHT-COVERED GUERRILLAS!

COOKIE STOPPED FIRING... BUT HIS INDEX FINGER WAS STILL CROOKED AROUND THE SWEATY TRIGGER, AS HE LISTENED FOR BETRAYING SOUNDS...

OUT OF THE GRAVEYARD STILLNESS CAME A MUFFLED NOISE... AND COLD BLOOD SURGED THRU COOKIE'S VEINS AND TOWARD HIS TRIGGER FINGER...

WHOEVER IT IS, STOP WHERE YA ARE OR I'LL START PUMPIN' MY GARAND!

HOLY CA-RIPES! IT... IT'S THE KID! SHE MUSTA FOLLOWED ME!

THE CRUNCHING OF DRIED LEAVES ON THE GROUND BETRAYED AN INTRUDER... AND WARNED COOKIE!

HIDE BEHIND THIS TREE, KID! SOMEONE'S COMIN'... AN' THERE MIGHT BE SHOOTIN'!

COOKIE CRAWLED AWAY TO THE TREE AND WAITED FOR THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS AGAIN! BUT THE NEXT SOUND HE HEARD WAS HIS OWN VOICE COMPLAINING, AS A GUN BARREL RAMMED INTO HIS BACK!

OW-W! WHAT THE...?

DROP YOUR WEAPON, PIG!

BLOODY MARY!

YES, PIG! AND NOW I SHOW YOU WHY THEY CALL ME SO!

A SUDDEN MOVEMENT FROM THE NEARBY TREE DIVERTED BLOODY MARY...

SHE'S OFF GUARD! NOW'S MY CHANCE!

COOKIE MADE AN ANGRY MARY WALK IN FRONT OF HIM TOWARD G.I. LINES! HE CARRIED THE KID IN HIS ARMS...

THAT WAS TOO CLOSE, SWEETIE...TOMORROW YOU GO TO THE ORPHANAGE! THE FURTHER AWAY YOU GET FROM BAD PEOPLE LIKE BLOODY MARY, THE BETTER!

THE END

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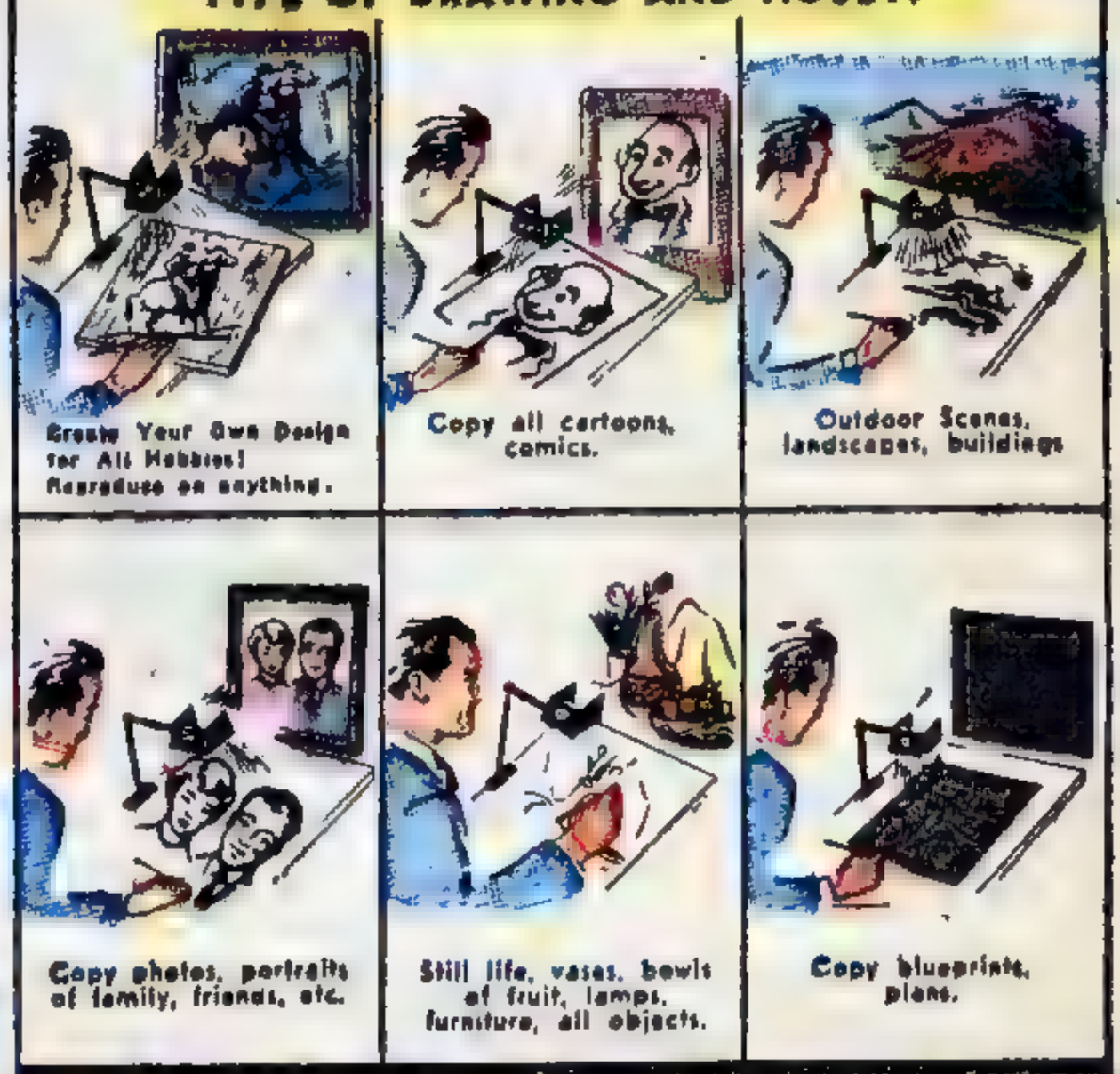

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"Sorry, soldier," he told the startled corporal. "But the musicians get kinda tired of watching mud-feet and clod-hoppers move about the floor. Let me give their eyes a treat and show Essie what real dancing is like! Move over, man, you're in my way!"

Then, swinging the girl into a rapid rhumba—a dance which the heavier Waite did very badly—he led her away from his fuming fellow corporal.

Before the evening was over, they had each proposed to Essie at least twice—and had had almost three fist-fights. It was in the course of the last one, that she walked out of the USO and left them both flat. By that time, bruised by each other's punches and more than a little groggy, that they had returned from the lawn where they had been "arguing" in the moonlight, she was gone.

It was obvious that she had become too annoyed by their constant wrangling to stick around. They never saw her again — but they both corresponded with her frequently, and she answered all their letters faithfully.

Would she marry him, each of them wanted to know? Well, she replied, she wasn't making any definite promises, but the man she would like best would have to be pretty brave. He'd have to have a chest practically covered with medals.

"So that's it," Corporal Foster muttered to himself, on the crowded troopship going overseas. "She'll marry the bravest one of the two. Well, all I can say is that Waite just doesn't have a chance!"

And, for his part, Dick Waite smiled grimly as he read her letter and made up his mind that he was going to have at

least ten medals more than Foster by the time the outfit came home to America.

You never saw two non-coms like that from that time on. Though they hardly spoke a civil word to each other, they watched each other like hungry hawks. Neither would let the other outdo in him in valor, in anything which might conceivably lead to a coveted medal.

Lieutenant Billingsley never had to ask for men to undertake a particularly unpleasant or dangerous assignment. It was always a matter of making a choice between Foster and Waite, Waite and Foster. They volunteered for everything.

Like the time a man went overboard during a storm which started as their transport entered the Sea of Japan. Both corporals dived off the ship after him at almost the same moment. And, in that choppy sea, they fought each other so murderously for the privilege of rescuing the man, that they almost drowned him twice over.

Yes, they both got a medal for that. And they both got medals for other things, too. They got so many medals, in fact, that they covered not only their chests but the entire platoon with glory. Lieutenant Billingsley got commendation after commendation, and became a captain long before many men senior to him.

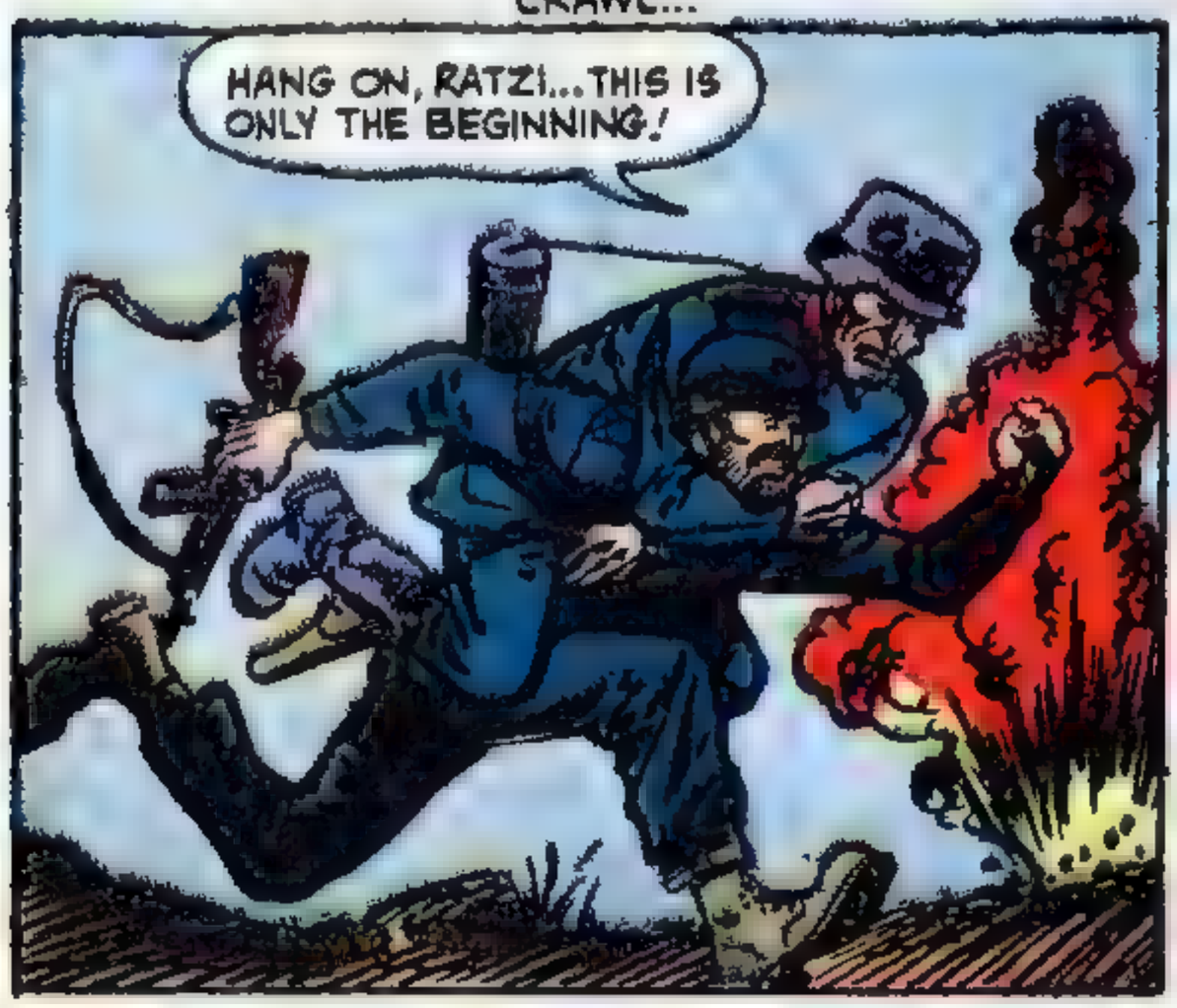
So Essie married him, when the rotation system brought him back to the States. Because, you see, she had been his fiancee right along and had been very unhappy over the stories he told her of the difficulties he'd been having with the two corporals. When they'd met her in the PX, she'd thought the entire thing up then and there! You see, she always had wanted to be a captain's wife!

THE END A-320

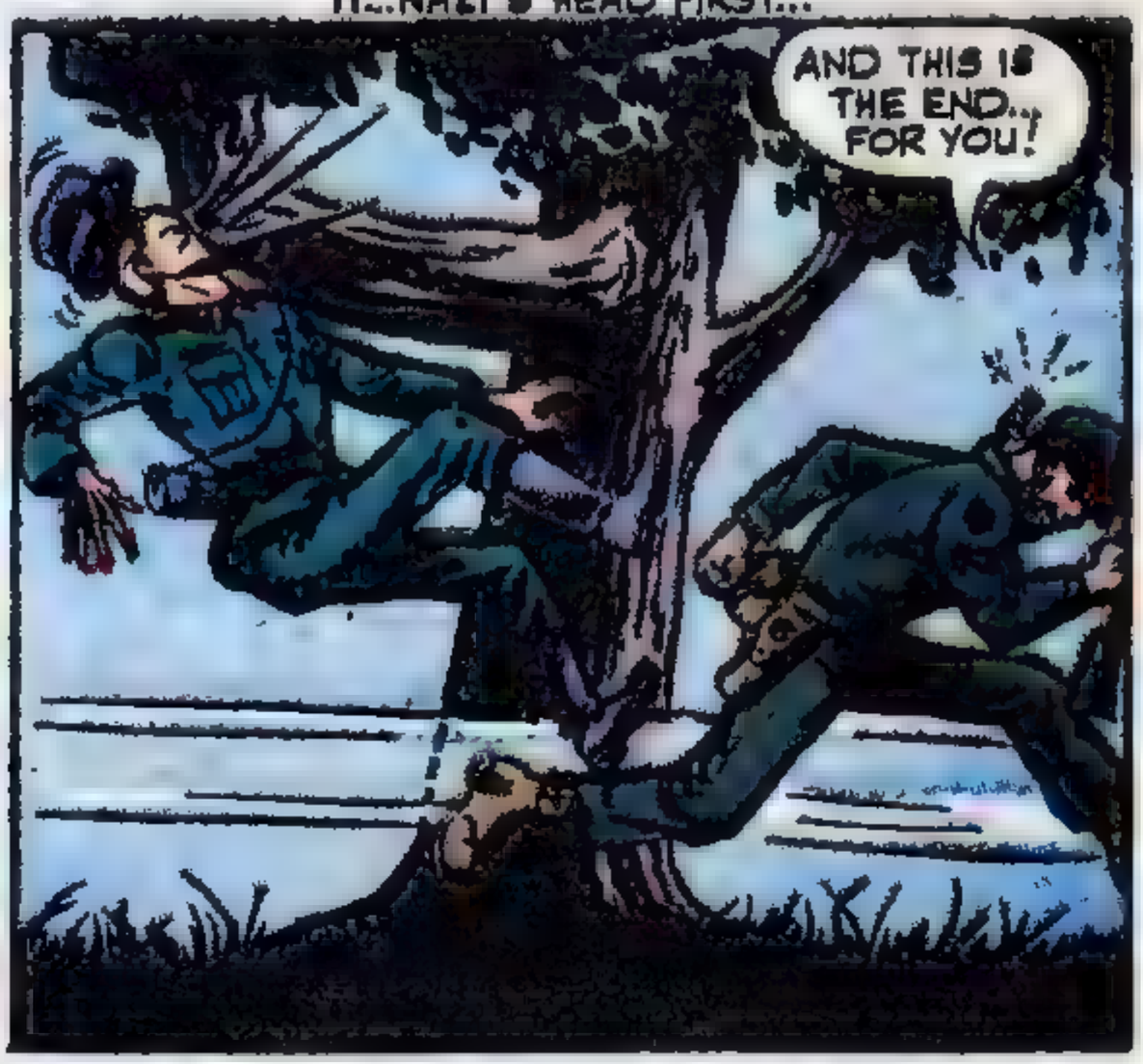
GET INTO THE THICK OF BATTLE WITH...

COMBAT KELLY

COOKIE'S FRANTIC WARNING WAS LIKE A STARTING GUN TO COMBAT KELLY! HE DUCKED AND TOOK OFF AT A PACE THAT MADE DOUBLE-TIME LOOK LIKE A CATERPILLAR CRAWL...

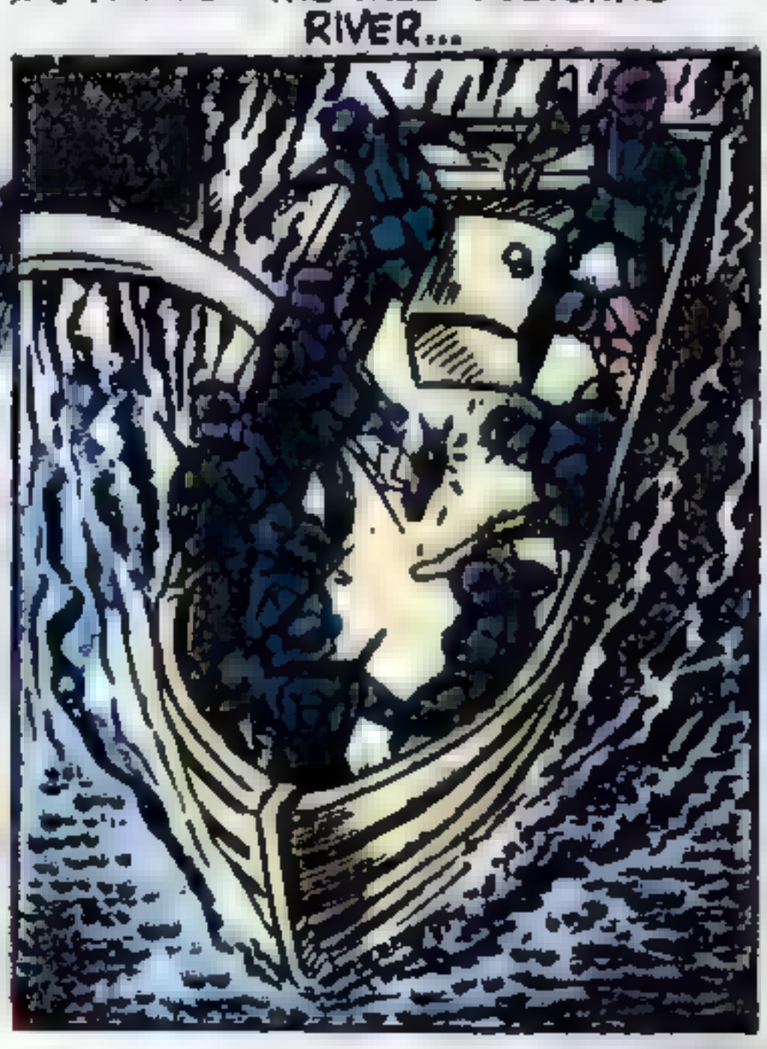


COMBAT ZEROED IN ON A BIG TREE AND SLAMMED INTO IT...NAZI'S HEAD FIRST...



COMBAT YANKED THE HOT POTATO-MASHER OUT OF HIS SHIRT AND HEAVED IT AS IF IT WERE A SIZZLING YAM...

THE JERRY GRENADE MADE A NEST IN A CROWDED NAZI BOAT RETREATING ACROSS THE WILD VOLTURNO RIVER...



THE NAZIS ABANDONED SHIP IN MID-STREAM, AND THE RIVER CARRIED THE BOAT UNDER THE LAST BRIDGE SPANNING THE VOLTURNO LOADED WITH FLEEING JERRIES...

THE GRENADE EXPLODED... IGNITING A GASOLINE TANK ON THE BOAT JUST AS IT FLOATED UNDER THE BRIDGE AND...

CA-RIPES! THEY MUST'A BEEN CARRYING DYNAMITE OVER THAT BRIDGE TO USE ON THE OTHER SIDE TO BLOW IT UP.. AN' THAT GRENADE AND GAS TANK GAVE IT THE KISS-OFF AHEAD OF TIME!
YEAH... AN' A JUICY KISS-OFF TO OUR OUTFIT'S CHANCE OF KEEPING ON THE JERRIES' TAILS ALL THE WAY TO ROME!

WE'VE GOT TO GET ACROSS THAT DRINK, GUYS! AND THE SOONER WE DO IT THE BETTER! BECAUSE IF THOSE JERRIES GET DUG IN, ALL THE SHELLS IN HADES WON'T DIG 'EM OUT!

HOW WE GONNA DO IT, CAP'N THORN... SWIM?

WE'D TURN TO ICE CUBES BEFORE WE GOT HALFWAY! OR ELSE WE'D GET WASHED INTO THE TYRRHENIAN SEA BY THE SWIFT CURRENTS!

WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT WITH ASSAULT BOATS! AND THE FIRST CREWS OVER WILL HANG ROPE FOR THE FOOTBRIDGES TO BE BUILT ON!

ASSAULT BOATS? IN THE MIDDLE OF ITALY?

LATE THAT AFTERNOON, THE G.I. ARTILLERY BEGAN LAYING DOWN THE STEEL CARPET FOR THE CROSSING...

GIANT 8-INCH GUNS JOINED THE GANG OF 105'S AND 155'S TO PLOW UP THE REAL ESTATE AND THE NAZIS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VOLTURNO...

AND WHILE THE BIG GUNS HAMMERED THE JERRIES, THE DOGFACES OF THE 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION PREPARED FOR THE CROSSING...

IN THEIR POCKETS AND PACKS, THE DOGGIES WHO WERE GOING, LOADED ONE K RATION AND ONE D RATION...PLUS CIGS AND AN OVERCOAT...

THEY WERE ISSUED ALL THE RIFLE AMMO AND GRENADES THEY WANTED...

THEN THEY WAITED AND PRAYED ...FOR BOATS IN THE MIDDLE OF ITALY...

THEIR PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED, AS UNDER COVER OF THE ITALIAN NIGHT, ASSAULT BOATS WERE DELIVERED AND TOWED TO THE BANKS OF THE VOLTURNO...

CA-RIPES! THESE THINGS ARE STEEL! DO THEY FLOAT?

LIKE BEAUTY SOAP! AND EACH IS LOADED WITH RUBBER PONTOONS, ROPE AND FOOTBRIDGE GEAR! GOOD LUCK, SAILORS!

OKAY, YOU GOBS, DON'T STAND THERE...LAUNCH 'EM! SHOVE THEM INTO THE DRINK!

THE DOGGIES DID...NOSE FIRST...AND THE STEEL BOATS SANK WITHOUT A GURGLE...

HEY! I THOUGHT THESE THINGS COULD FLOAT!

THEY'LL FLOAT, ROOKIE, BUT YA NEVER LAUNCH A STEEL ASSAULT BOAT PROW FIRST! YA DO IT SIDEWAYS...LIKE THIS!

OH! GEE, THANKS, COMBAT!

AFTER THAT, THE BOATS WERE LAUNCHED PROPERLY AND THEY SNEAKED ACROSS, LOADED WITH G.I.'s AND EQUIPMENT...

ON THE OTHER SIDE, WHILE THE CREWS WORKED PUTTING UP THE FOOTBRIDGE, COMBAT AND COOKIE WENT OUT LOOKING FOR NAZI SNOOPERS...

IF THE JERRIES SPOT THIS DETAIL, THEY'LL PLASTER THIS AREA WITH EVERYTHING BUT SCHNAPPS AND WIENER SCHNITZEL!

NAZI HUNTING WAS GOOD THAT NIGHT! COMBAT FOUND THE FIRST JERRY...

COOKIE TOOK CARE OF THE SECOND ONE...

AND AFTER THAT THEY LOST COUNT...

WHEN COMBAT AND COOKIE GOT BACK TO THE RIVER, THE FOOTBRIDGE WAS ALREADY UP AND G.I.'S WERE POURING OVER IT...

AND TOMORROW NIGHT WE'LL LAY A PONTOON BRIDGE FOR THE TANKS AND HEAVY STUFF!

THE NEXT MORNING WHEN THE SUN CAME UP, THE NAZI OBSERVER ALMOST POPPED HIS BINOCULARS!

GOTT IM HIMMEL... A BRIDGE ACROSS THE VOLTURNO! NEIN! IT CAN'T BE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, A BATTERY OF NAZI 150-MM *NEBELWERFERS SPAT SCREAMING MEEMIES AT THE BRIDGE...

*6-BARRELLED, ELECTRICALLY-FIRED GUNS!

THEY CAN POUND AT IT FROM NOW UNTIL V-DAY AND THEY WON'T HIT IT... IT'S TOO SMALL A TARGET! BUT WITH THOSE GUNS BLAZING, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LAY THE PONTOON BRIDGE FOR THE TANKS AND BIG STUFF!

MAYBE COOKIE AN' ME COULD SNEAK AROUND THAT HILL WITH A CASE OF DYNAMITE?

THE CAPTAIN LIKED THE PLAN... AND A SHORT TIME LATER, COMBAT AND COOKIE WERE FLOATING DOWN THE VOLTURNO IN A STEEL ASSAULT BOAT, ARMED WITH A CASE OF DYNAMITE...

I'LL PUT THESE TIME FUSES AND MATCHES INSIDE MY HELMET TO KEEP 'EM DRY...

HOLY SMOKES, COMBAT! THERE'S A COUPLE OF NAZI GUARDS ON THE BANK DOWN THERE!

ONE OF THE GUARDS SPOTTED THE BOAT AND RAISED HIS GUN...

DON'T WASTE YOUR AMMUNITION, FRITZ!

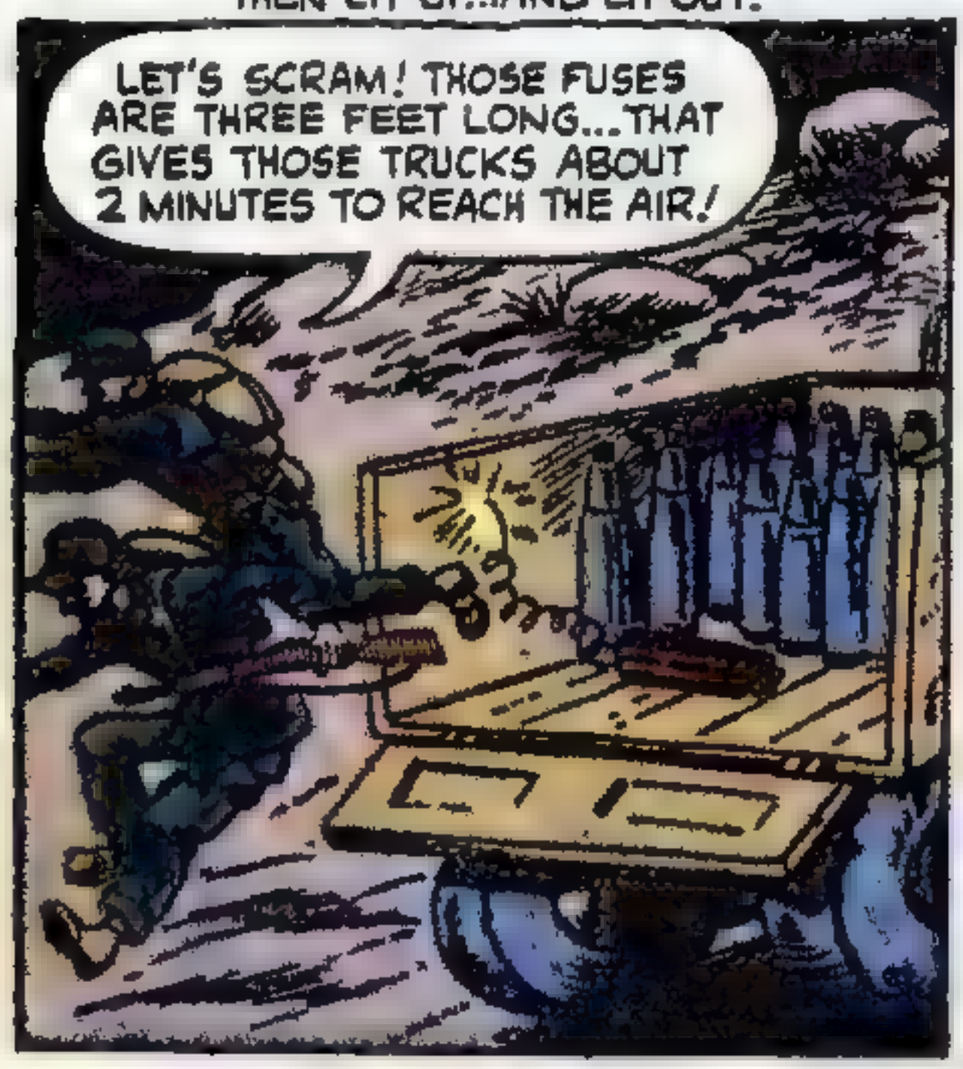
CAN'T YOU SEE THE BOAT IS EMPTY?

AFTER THE TWO DOGGIES PASSED THE NAZI GUARDS. THEY CLIMBED ASHORE ON THE REAR OF THE HILL CROWNED BY THE NAZI NEBELWERFERS...

CA-RIPES! IT'S A NAZI VEHICLE LOADED WITH AMMO FOR THOSE SCREAMIN'-MEEMIE HEAVERS ON TOP OF THE HILL!
COME ON COOKIE... WE'RE GOIN' FER A RIDE!

OKAY, SO WE'RE RIDIN' ON TOP OF TONS OF NAZI BOOM STUFF... NOW WHAT?
NOW THIS! I STILL GOT THE MATCHES AND TIME FUSES I STASHED IN MY HELMET! WE CAN SET OFF THIS PILE WITH 'EM!

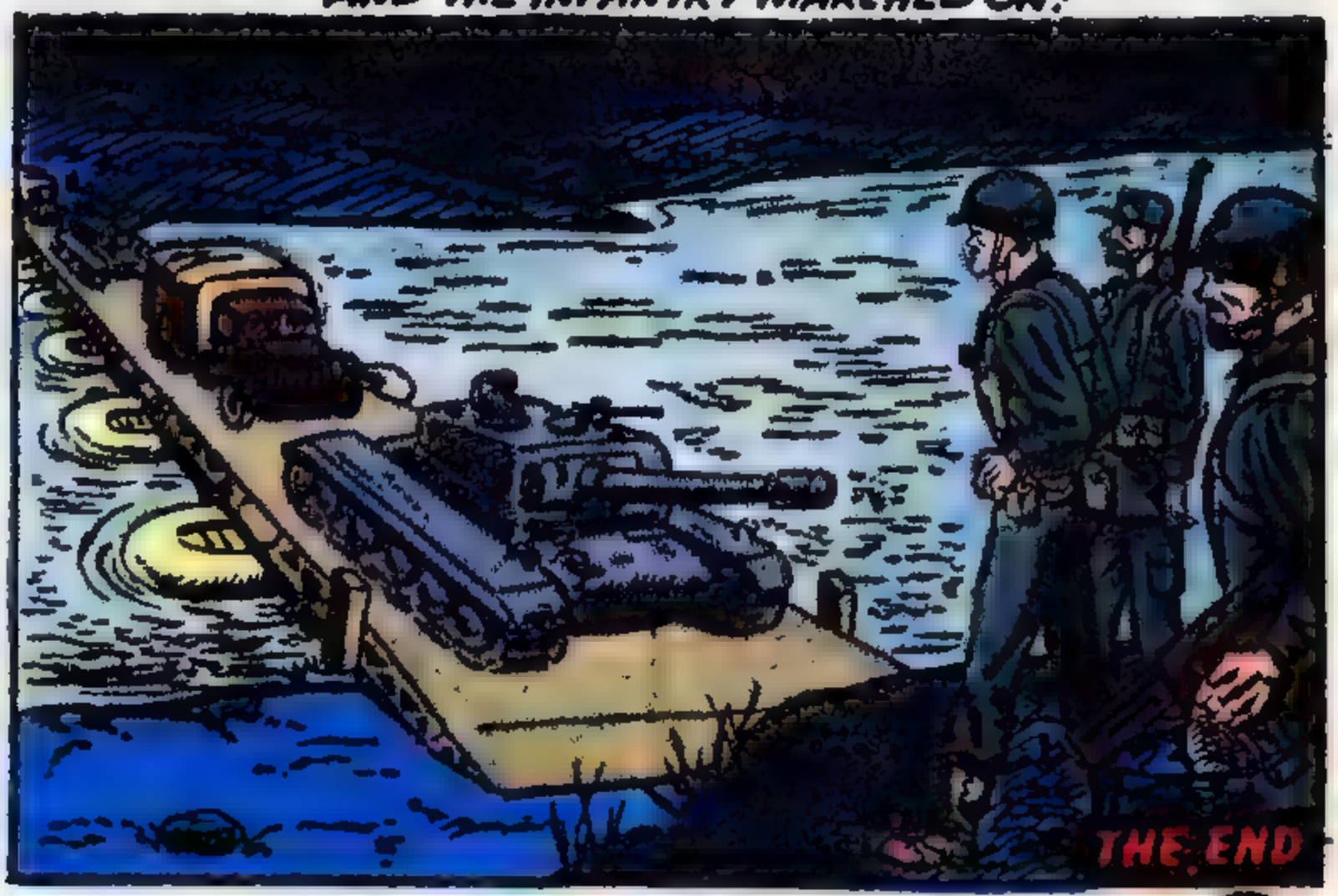
COMBAT AND COOKIE FORCED ONE END OF THE FUSES INTO SOME OF THE SHELL CASINGS, THEN LIT UP...AND LIT OUT!



THE SHELL-LOADED TRUCK STRUGGLED UP THE HILL...AND SECONDS BURNED OFF THE FUSES...

THE JERRY DRIVER PARKED BETWEEN THE BIG GUNS AT THE EXACT INSTANT THAT THE SPUTTERING FUSES REACHED THE POWDER IN THE SHELLS IN BACK OF THE TRUCK... AND THE NAZI HILL-TOP STRONGHOLD BLEW ITS TOP!

AND BEFORE THE GUN BATTERY COULD BE REPLACED, THE G.I.'s LAID A PONTOON BRIDGE FOR THE TANKS AND HEAVY GUNS ACROSS THE VOLTURNO... ***AND THE INFANTRY MARCHED ON!***



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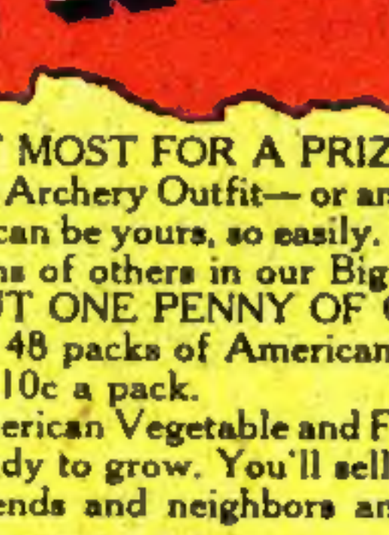

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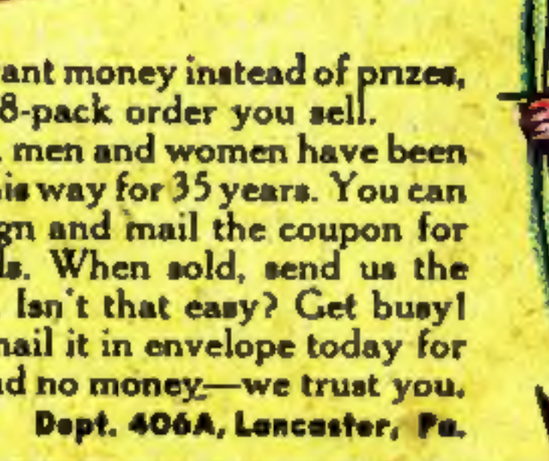

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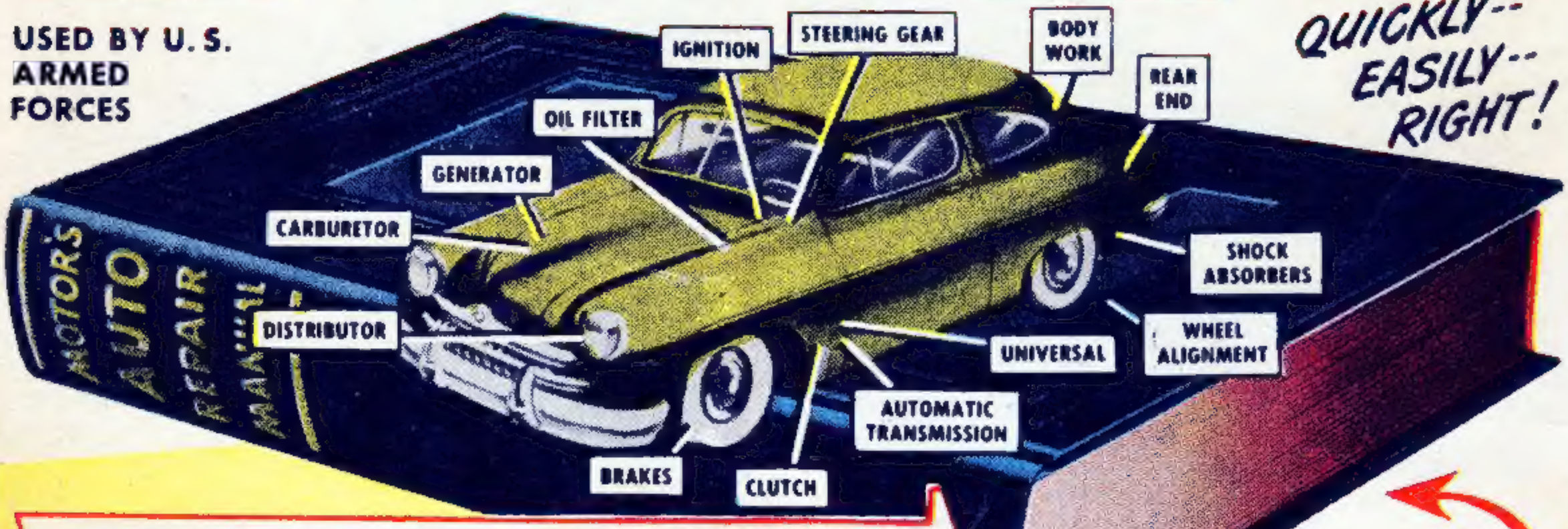

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